Nov. 1, 1927. 1,647,548

J. S. SMALL

FILE

Filed Nov. 2, 1926

Fig. 1.

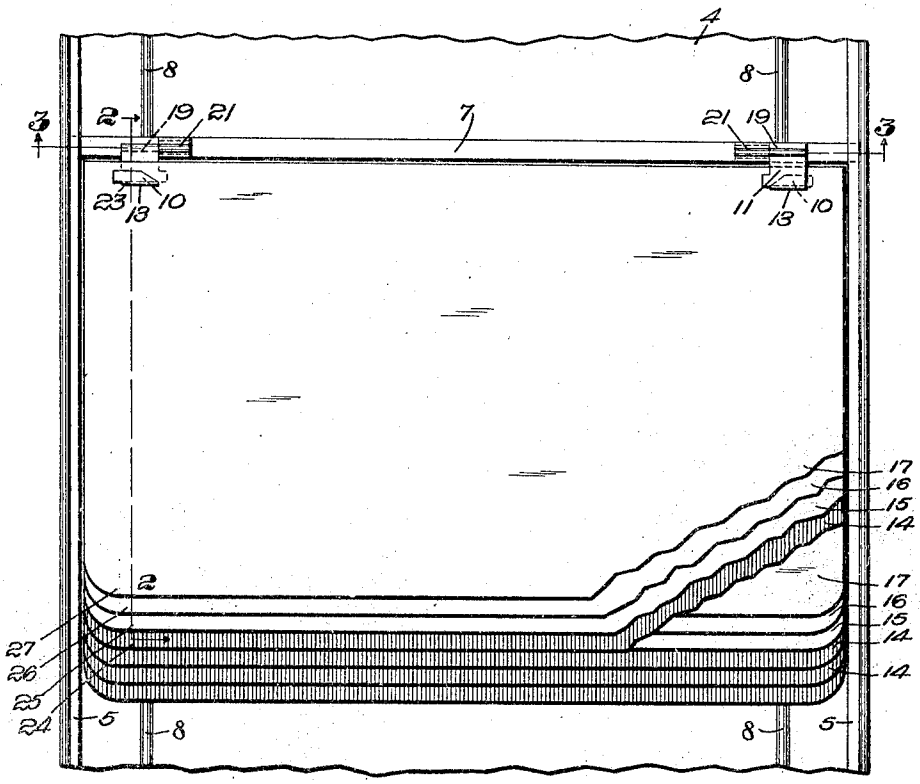


Fig. 2.

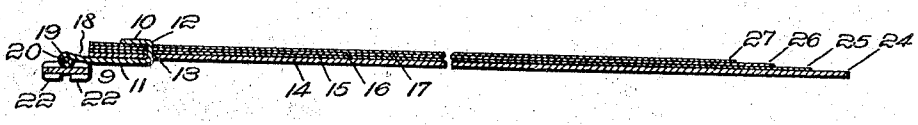
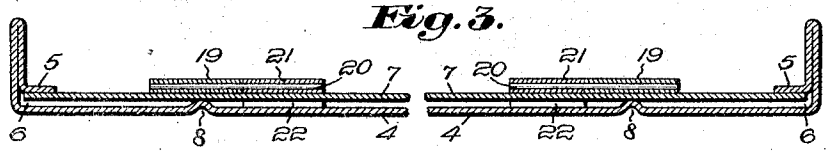


Fig. 3.



Inventor:
John S. Small,
by Emery, Booth, Janney & Varney
Attys.

Patented Nov. 1, 1927. 1,647,548

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN SANFORD SMALL, OF ELKHART, INDIANA.

FILE.

Application filed November 2, 1926. Serial No. 145,774.

This invention relates to a novel file, in which the sheets are arranged in groups, a key, or master, sheet of each group serving to index the sheets of that group with reference to the key sheets of the remaining groups, the key sheets being arranged in overlapping relationship to expose a series of identification-receiving margins to the view at one time, while the remaining sheets of such group are normally hidden by the overlying key sheet of another group. The sheets of each group, considered with reference to one another, have overlapping identification-receiving margins serving to index the sheets of that group with reference to one another, so that when the overlying key sheet is lifted, the margins of the underlying sheets of the next group are exposed to view, and so that when any group of sheets is removed from its place in the file, all of the margins of the sheets of that group are exposed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the following description, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings of one specific embodiment thereof, while its scope will be more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an elevation of a file exemplifying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of one group of sheets and their holder, on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, and to the embodiment of the invention which is selected for exemplification, there is shown a support, herein a panel 4, conveniently formed of sheet metal, having two opposite marginal portions bent to present inwardly directed flanges 5, behind which are channels 6 (see Fig. 3) to receive the ends of appropriate sheet holders, herein comprising flexible bars 7, such as tempered steel strips, which are elevated somewhat from the front face of the panel, as by ribs 8 formed on the panel.

Each bar is provided with sheet-attaching means, herein a pair of clips 9, having a U-shaped cross-sectional formation (see Fig. 2), each clip having two arms 10 and 11, connected by a connecting portion 12, which extends through registering perforations 13 provided in the several sheets of the group of sheets held by that holder. In the present example, the group comprises four sheets, designated respectively 14, 15, 16 and 17. The arm 11 of each clip is longer than the arm 10, as clearly shown in Fig. 2, and presents a hinge piece 18, conveniently formed by coiling the same to afford a bearing 19 for a pintle 20, suitably secured to the bar as by a hinge piece 21, herein conveniently formed of sheet-metal having two arms 22 bent around and back of the bar, to provide a secure attachment thereto. The mode of inserting the clips in the openings presented by the sheets is set forth in my pending application, Ser. No. 750,225, filed November 17, 1924. Removal of the clips from their pintles can be accomplished only by first removing the bar from the panel, the effective length of the bar to this end being diminished by bending the bar, after which the bar can be bent sufficiently to enable the pintles to be withdrawn from the clips. Afterwards, the clips can be removed from their respective openings in the sheets by rocking the clips about points 23.

The construction of the carriers and their clips, with their mode of attachment to the sheets, is the subject matter of my above-entitled application, and is disclosed herein as one convenient type of mounting for the sheets.

As already indicated, each sheet-holder holds a plurality of sheets. When the bars are placed edge to edge in the panel, the width of each bar determines the amount of exposure of the margin of one of the sheets of each group. The sheets of each group are different widths, and when assembled they present identification-receiving margins 24, 25, 26 and 27, all of which are presented to view when the overlying sheet 14 of any group is lifted, and if desired turned backward, and also when any group is removed from the file.

The widest sheet of each group, herein the sheet 14, may be termed the key or master sheet, inasmuch as its identification-receiving margin 24 is the only one of that group normally presented to view. Thus, all of the identification-receiving margins 24 may be provided with appropriate identifications, and they serve to index the sheets of that group with reference to the key sheets of the remaining groups. On the other hand, the sheet margins of each group, considered with reference to one another, serve to index the sheets of that group with reference to one

another, so that when the overlying key sheet is lifted, and if desired turned backward, the margins of the underlying sheets of the next group are exposed to view.

If desired, and as herein shown, the key sheet of each group may be distinguished as such by making it of a different color, or a different shade, from the remaining sheets of the group, and also as herein shown, the key sheet is made of a somewhat thicker stock than the remaining sheets of the group. By giving the key sheet a different color characteristic from the other sheets of its group, it is readily distinguished therefrom, apart from its relationship therewith as to size and location. By making the key sheet thicker than the remaining sheets of its group, it is not only readily distinguishable from the remaining sheets of its group, but owing to its greater stability, it facilitates the handling of the group of which it is a part.

This system of indexing presents many obvious advantages, among them being the fact that confusion is avoided by having only one identification-receiving portion of each group normally presented to view, and containing the key index for that group, while the remaining identification-receiving portions of that group may be appropriately indexed to indicate their connection with the key sheet, and to furnish other data not borne by the margin of the key sheet, and which other data it is undesirable to have normally exposed. Among the many uses to which this system is adaptable are production records, central control systems, signature records, banks' purchase records, doctors' records, and the like. In the case of production records, the key sheet may carry the assembly bill of material, another sheet, the gage reference record, indicating the gages used in the manufacturing operation, their dimensions and their details, the third sheet, a requisition record, and the fourth sheet, a production or progress record. Thus, all of the records needed for manufacture of a certain article are grouped together on one holder, and both sides of each sheet are available for the recording of data needed in connection with the manufacture of the article dealt with by the sheets of that particular group, and without danger of any confusion arising with the records of other parts.

Having thus described one embodiment of the invention, but without limiting myself thereto, what I claim and desire by Letters Patent to secure is:

1. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets arranged in overlapping groups, the sheets of each group being provided with overlapping margins, only one of said margins of each group being normally presented to view at one time, a plurality of sheet-holders, one for each group of sheets, and a mounting for said sheet-holders.

2. In a file, the combination of a plurality of leaves arranged in overlapping groups, the leaves of each group being provided with identification-receiving portions, all of which are presented to view at one time when such group is removed from the file, all but one of said identification-receiving portions being normally concealed from view by the sheets of another group, a plurality of leaf-holders, one for each group of leaves, and a mounting for said leaf-holders.

3. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets arranged in overlapping groups, the sheets of each group being provided with overlapping margins, only one of said margins of each group being normally presented to view at one time, each sheet being provided with a plurality of openings, and each opening being in registration with the corresponding opening or openings of the remaining sheet or sheets of the same group, a plurality of sheet-holders, one for each group of sheets, each sheet-holder presenting means received in the openings of the sheets of the group of sheets which it holds, and a mounting for said sheet-holders to maintain said groups in overlapping relationship.

4. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets arranged in overlapping groups, the sheets of each group being provided with overlapping margins, each sheet being provided with a plurality of openings, and each opening being in registration with the corresponding opening or openings of the remaining sheet or sheets of the same group, a plurality of sheet-holders, one for each group of sheets, each sheet-holder presenting projections received in the openings of the sheets of the group of sheets which it holds, and a mounting for said sheet-holders to maintain said groups in overlapping relationship.

5. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets, means maintaining said sheets arranged in overlapping groups, the sheets of each group differing in size from one another, a margin of only one sheet of each group being normally presented to view.

6. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets arranged in overlapping groups, the sheets of each group differing in size from one another, a margin of only one sheet of each group being normally presented to view, a plurality of sheet-holders, one for each group of sheets, and a mounting for said sheet-holders.

7. In a file, the combination of a plurality of groups of sheets, each group comprising a plurality of sheets of different widths assembled to present identification-receiving margins all of which are presented to view when an overlying group is lifted, said groups being arranged in overlapping rela-

tionship with the widest sheet of each group covering all but the widest sheet of the next underlying group and exposing only an identification-receiving margin of such sheet, and means maintaining the relationship of said groups of sheets with respect to one another and maintaining the relationship of the sheets of each group with respect to one another.

8. In a file, the combination of a plurality of groups of sheets, each group comprising a plurality of sheets of different widths assembled to present identification-receiving margins all of which are presented to view when such group is removed from the file, said groups being arranged in overlapping relationship with the widest sheet of each group covering all but the widest sheet of the next underlying group and exposing only an identification-receiving margin of such sheet, the sheets of each group being provided with openings registering with one another, a plurality of sheet-holders, one for each group of sheets, each holder having sheet-attaching means received in the perforations of its group, and a mounting for said sheet-holders to maintain said groups in overlapping relationship.

9. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets arranged in overlying groups, the sheets of each group being provided with overlapping margins, only one of said margins being normally presented to view at one time, a plurality of sheet-holders, one for each group of sheets, presenting hinge means permitting such group to be swung backward into a reversed position to expose an underlying group of sheets with its overlapping margins, and a mounting for said sheet-holders.

10. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets arranged in overlapping groups, the sheets of each group differing in size from one another, a margin only of one sheet being normally presented to view, and means presenting mountings for said groups of sheets, on each of which mountings a given group of sheets may be swung backward into a reversed position to expose an underlying group of sheets.

11. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets, means maintaining said sheets arranged in overlapping groups, the sheets of each group differing in size from one another, a margin of only one sheet of each group being normally presented to view, the last-mentioned sheet having a characteristic distinguishing it from the remaining sheets of the group.

12. In a file, the combination of a plurality of sheets, means maintaining said sheets arranged in overlapping groups, the sheets of each group differing in size from one another, a margin of only one sheet of each group being normally presented to view, the last-mentioned sheet having a different color characteristic from the remaining sheets of the group.

13. In a file, the combination of a plurality of groups of sheets, each group comprising a plurality of sheets of different widths, means maintaining said sheets assembled to present identification-receiving margins all of which margins of one group are presented to view when an overlying group is lifted, said means maintaining said groups in overlapping relationship with the widest sheet of each group covering all but the widest sheet of the next underlying group and exposing only an identification-receiving margin of such sheet, the widest sheet of each group differing in thickness from the remaining sheets of such group.

14. In a file, the combination of a plurality of groups of sheets, each group comprising a plurality of sheets of different widths, means maintaining said sheets assembled to present identification-receiving margins all of which margins of one group are presented to view when an overlying group is lifted, said means maintaining said groups in overlapping relationship with the widest sheet of each group covering all but the widest sheet of the next underlying group and exposing only an identification-receiving margin of such sheet, the widest sheet of each group being thicker than the remaining sheets of such group.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

JOHN SANFORD SMALL.