E. D. BELKNAP.

STRUCTURE FOR USE AS STENCIL CARD.

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1,198,691. Patented Sept. 19, 1916.

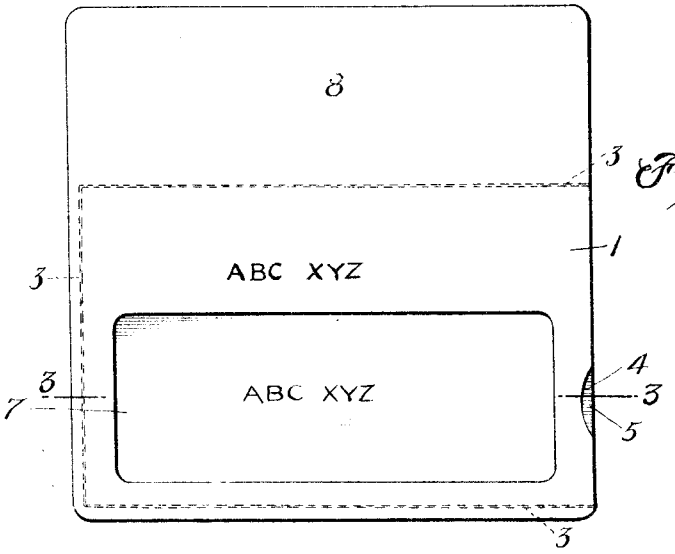


Fig: 1.

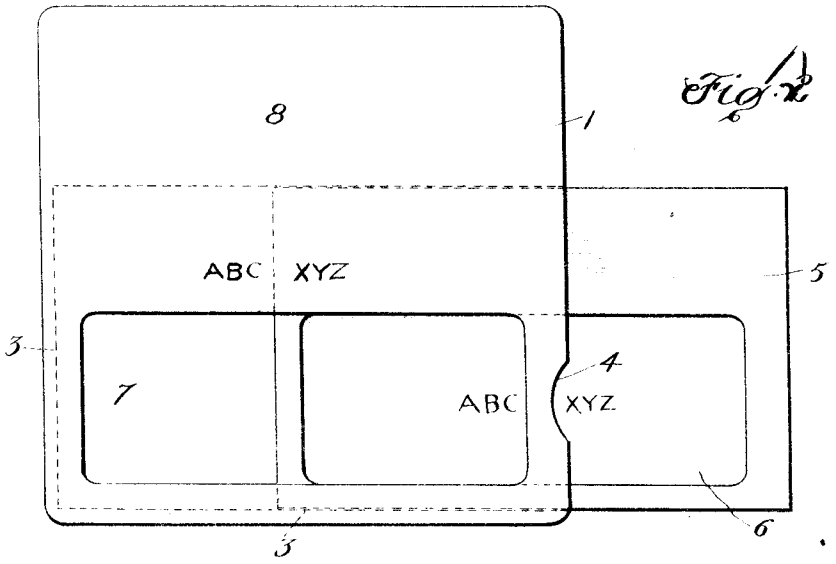
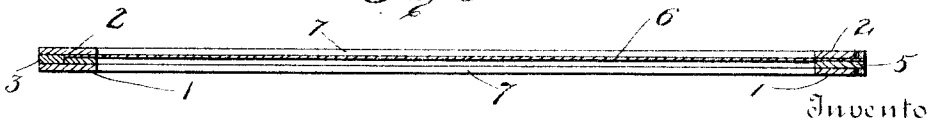


Fig: 2.

Fig: 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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STRUCTURE FOR USE AS STENCIL-CARD.

1,198,691. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 19, 1916.

Application filed March 29, 1916. Serial No. 87,598.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN D. BELKNAP, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at East Orange, county of Essex, State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Structures for Use as Stencil-Cards, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to stencil cards and blanks adapted to be stencilized so that they can be used as stencil cards in address printing machines. By "stencilized" I mean such treatment of a blank either by partial perforation or by partial removal of the filling or coating of a thin fabric that the resultant article becomes a stencil capable of use in stencil printing machines.

In the production of such stencil cards certain conflicting conditions have to be neutralized. That is to say, the stencil card must have a certain stiffness sufficient to enable it to be handled rapidly by a feeding apparatus in the printing machine without the cards buckling, and at the same time the frames employed to give the card this stiffness must have an appreciable thickness so that the cards may be fed forward in a series edge to edge, one propelling another along a slotted guideway, without danger of the edges overlapping and one card sliding over or partly wedging under another, while at the same time the blank which is to be stencilized must have sufficient flexibility and consequent thinness to permit it to readily adapt itself to the curvature of the platen of the typewriting machine upon which it is stencilized. Also, it is desirable that the frame of the stencil card shall have a projecting portion along one edge upon which various indexing marks and record data may be placed and such extension interferes with the convenient manipulation of the card in a typewriting machine.

My invention overcomes these difficulties and produces a structure which in its combined and constituent elements has all of these various qualities to the highest degree during the different steps of the treatment above outlined, without any one interfering with the other.

The best form of apparatus embodying my invention at present known to me is illustrated in the accompanying sheet of drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of the completed card; Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same with the two component elements partly dissociated and Fig. 3 is an exaggerated cross section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Throughout the drawings like reference characters indicate like parts.

1 and 2, represent sheets of material such as stiff paper or thin cardboard which are duplicates one of another. Each is of substantially rectangular shape and has substantially rectangular openings which, when the two sheets are superposed, register one with another to form an opening 7. The two cardboard sheets 1 and 2, are preferably fastened together by cement and the narrow strip 3, of paper, cardboard or other spacing material, along all their edges except for a space left open to form a slit opposite one end of the opening 7. This unfilled space is long enough to permit the insertion and withdrawal of a blank or stencilized card composed of the rectangular frame 5 of comparatively thin and flexible material and the sheet 6 of parchment or treated paper adapted to be stencilized by perforation or by type pressure such as described in Letters Patent No. 1,110,869 to F. D. and E. D. Belknap, dated September 15, 1914, and similar patents, cemented thereto. As this uncemented space is slightly longer than the frame 5 is wide, and frame 5 is wider than opening 7, it follows that this unfilled or uncemented space is somewhat longer than that dimension of opening 7, which is parallel to the unfilled or uncemented or unfastened edges. This flexible card is of such length that when the same is pushed home through this opening, it occupies the position shown in Fig. 1, the inner outlines of its frame 5, approximating the outlines of the openings 7, in the sheets 1 and 2.

Preferably the edges of sheets 1 and 2, opposite one end of the opening 7, and within the space not filled by the spacing strip 3, have registering arc-shaped cut-away portions 4, through which a portion of the end of the flexible frame 5, is exposed. Preferably also, the extension 8, of the main frame formed by the two sheets 1 and 2, fastened together as above described, is treated with some one of the well known preparations, such as silicate compositions, which form a surface film on which ink or lead pencil marks can readily be made and from which they can be erased with equal readiness.

In using my invention the blank formed by the flexible frame 5, and treated or parchment sheet 6, may be removed from the containing frame by grasping one end of frame 5, where it is exposed through the cut-away portions 4, and withdrawing it from the frame in the manner indicated in Fig. 2 of the drawings, and said flexible inner card can then be conveniently manipulated in an ordinary typewriting machine to stencilize same, the flexible frame readily assuming the necessary curvature required to enable it to lie close to the typewriter platen. After the blank is stencilized and formed into a stencil card, it is then reinserted in the stiff frame formed by the sheets 1 and 2 and spacing strip 3, and can be readily employed in the ordinary stencil address printing machine. At the same time any desired indexing matter or other data regarding the customer whose name and address is stencilized upon the inner sheet may be marked upon the treated surface of the extension 8, of the outer frame and later, if desired, all or a portion of these marks may be readily erased and more up-to-date records and data substituted.

A further advantage of the invention arises from the fact that different stencil blanks may be employed in the one frame. Thus, for instance, in the case of a business firm opening an account with a new customer or merely sending advertising matter to a prospective customer a part of the initial expense can be saved by using a cheap parchment stencil material through which the name and address is perforated by the old fashioned perforating type and then later if the "prospect" becomes a regular customer, in correspondence with whom a more finished type of address or billing is desired, the cheap perforated stencil card may be destroyed and the more modern card producing the facsimile typewriter stencil may be employed.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. The combination, with a stencil sheet or blank adapted to be stencilized having a comparatively thin surrounding frame of a flexibility sufficient to enable it to be easily shaped to the curvature of a typewriter platen roll, of a second, rectangular, double-thickness frame of stiff material having a face opening substantially corresponding to the outline of the inner margin of the first mentioned frame, and an edge opening or slit large enough to permit the insertion and withdrawal of the first frame and attached stencilized sheet.

2. The combination, with a stencil sheet or blank adapted to be stencilized having a comparatively thin surrounding frame of a flexibility sufficient to enable it to be easily shaped to the curvature of a typewriter platen roll, of a second, rectangular, double-thickness frame of stiff material having a face opening substantially corresponding to the outline of the inner margin of the first mentioned frame, and an edge opening or slit large enough to permit the insertion and withdrawal of the first frame and attached stencilized sheet, said outer frame having an extension along one edge adapted to receive ink and lead pencil marks and to permit the subsequent erasure thereof.

3. The combination, with a rectangular frame composed of two sheets of comparatively stiff material having registering rectangular openings therein and fastened together along all edges except for a space opposite one end of the rectangular openings and slightly longer than the dimension thereof parallel to said unfastened edges, of a stencil card having a flexible rectangular frame adapted to be inserted between the first mentioned two sheets through the above mentioned space and having an inner outline approximating the outlines of the registering openings in said two sheets.

4. The combination with a rectangular frame composed of two sheets of comparatively stiff material having registering rectangular openings therein and fastened together along all edges except for a space opposite one end of the rectangular openings and slightly longer than the dimension thereof parallel to said unfastened edges, of a stencil card having a flexible rectangular frame adapted to be inserted between the first mentioned two sheets through the above mentioned space and having an inner outline approximating the outlines of the registering openings in said two sheets, said two sheets having registering cutaway portions along their edges adjacent said unfastened portions, at which one end of the flexible inner frame is exposed.

5. The combination, with a rectangular frame composed of two sheets of comparatively stiff material having registering rectangular openings therein and fastened together along all edges except for a space opposite one end of the rectangular openings, of a stencil card having a flexible rectangular frame adapted to be inserted between the first mentioned two sheets through the above mentioned space and having an inner outline approximating the outlines of the registering openings in said two sheets.

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