

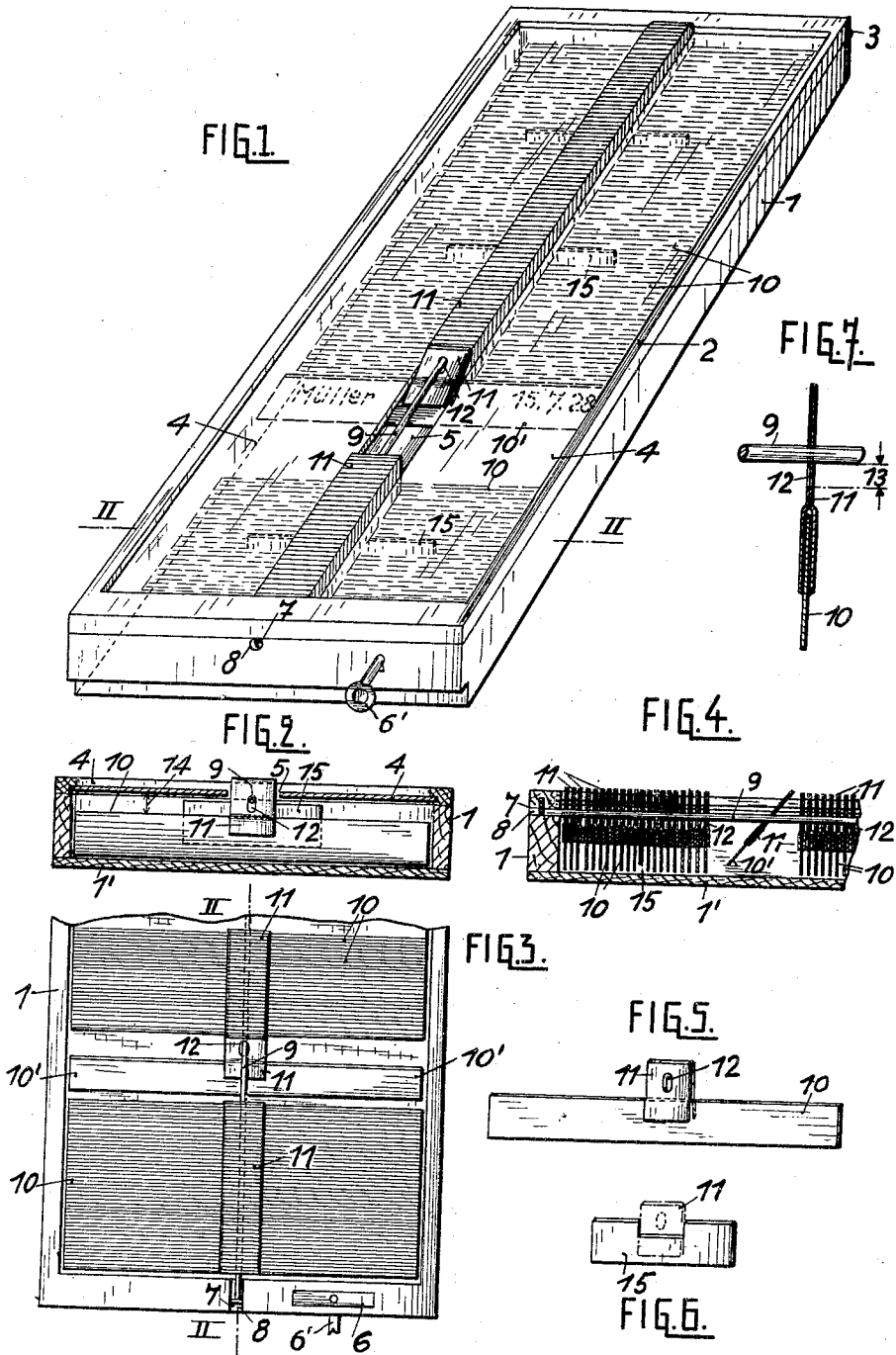
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CARD FILE

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## CARD FILE

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My invention relates to card files of the type in which the cards are held in a box covered with transparent material and are adapted to be handled from the outside of the box.

It is an object of my invention to improve a file of this kind.

To this end I provide a longitudinal slot in the box, and on each card I provide a tab which projects from the slot and is handled from the outside without the card being removed from the box.

In a preferred embodiment of my invention I provide the longitudinal slot in the transparent cover of the box and equip the cards with tabs of thin steel which project from the slot while the cards are retained in the box. The cards are moved by the tabs so that they may be read. The handling of the cards is very easy and the appearance of the cards is not deteriorated by long handling as only the tabs are engaged.

Preferably a rod is provided extending longitudinally with respect to the box, and the tabs of the cards are perforated and threaded on the rod. The perforations are vertical slots permitting the cards to be placed in an inclined position for facilitating reading. Obviously the cards must not be packed in the box but must only partly fill its space so that they can be turned over without being interfered with by the other cards.

My file may be used, for instance, for records kept by authorities and open for public inspection. While the records are easily read there is no possibility of tampering with them or removing cards.

In the accompanying drawings a card file embodying my invention is illustrated diagrammatically by way of example.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective illustration of the box,

Fig. 2 is a section on the line II—II in Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a part plan view of the box,

Fig. 4 is a section on the line IV—IV in Fig. 3,

Fig. 5 is an elevation of a normal card, with its tab,

Fig. 6 is an elevation of a guide card, and

Fig. 7 shows a card threaded on the aforesaid longitudinal rod.

Referring now to the drawings, 1 is a box resembling a drawer, 2 is its lid which is hinged to the rear edge of the box at 3, and 4, 4 are two plates of transparent material, non-splintering glass, celluloid, or other material. The two cover plates are inserted in the lid 3 and their width is such as to leave a gap 5 between them. Instead of being inserted in the lid, the plates 4, 4 may be placed loosely on top of the box and held in position by the lid. 6 is a lock, with a key 6', for closing the lid, 7 is a check at the front end of the lid, and 8 is a groove in the top of the box 1 which is entered by the check 7 when the lid is closed.

The groove 8, and a corresponding groove, not shown, at the rear end of the box 1, together with the check 7, support the ends of the longitudinal rod 9 which extends along the centre of the gap 5.

Referring now to Figs. 5 and 7, 10 is one of the normal file cards, 11 is its tab, preferably of steel plate, which is clamped on the upper edge of the card, and 12 is a slot in the tab for the reception of the rod 9. The width of the tabs 11 is substantially equal to that of the slot 5 between the cover plates 4, 4.

The cards 10 may be so high as to rest on the bottom 1' of the box 1, or they may be suspended from the rod 9 without touching the bottom 1'. The cards are readily handled by their tabs 11, and as readily displaced along the rod 9. The fingers of the operator, however, never get into contact with the cards themselves so that they are not damaged by repeated reference.

If it is desired to inspect one of the cards, for instance, the card 10', Figs. 1 and 4, more closely, the cards are divided into two blocks by moving them apart at the card 10' which is practicable as the cards do not fill up the box altogether, and the card 10' can now be tilted and raised as far as permitted by the slot 12 in its tab 11.

Preferably the cards must not be raised until their upper edges abut below the plates 4, 4 as there is a possibility of removing them in this position. Raising of the cards to this extent is prevented by making the distance 13, Fig. 7, of the lower ends of the slots 12 from the rod shorter than the distance 14, Fig. 2, of the upper edges of the cards 10 from the plates 4, or equal to this distance.

Card guides may be inserted between the cards for facilitating the location of a given card. The guides 15, Fig. 6, are not as wide as the normal cards 10 but their upper edges project beyond those of the normal cards as best seen in Fig. 1. The guides are equipped with slotted tabs 11, like the cards 10. Preferably the same tabs are used before the cards and the guides and in order to arrange the guides 15 above the upper edges of the cards when both the cards and guides are assembled as shown in Figure 1, the upper edges of the guides are cut away or recessed as shown in Figure 6 while the slotted tabs 11 are arranged in such cut away portions and secured thereto as shown in Figure 6.

It is understood that I am not limited to the central arrangement of the gap 5 and the rod 9, nor to any other details of the device described by way of example.

In operation, when it is desired to remove cards or to insert new ones, the lock 6 is opened, and the lid 2 is raised. The rod 9 is now exposed and may be extracted for inserting or removing cards. The cards are now replaced by threading them on the rod 9, as described, and the rod is secured in position by turning down and closing the lid 2.

I claim:

1. A card file comprising a box, a series of cards therein, transparent means on said box for retaining cards, said means defining a slot, and a tab extending from each card and projecting through said slot.

2. A card file comprising a box, a plurality of cards in the box, transparent means on said box for retaining the cards therein, said means defining a slot, a rod in said box beneath the slot, and a slotted tab extending from each card and projecting through said slot and threaded on said rod.

3. A card file comprising a box, a plurality of cards therein, a removable rod carried by said box, a slotted tab on each card threaded on said rod, a transparent lid on said box adapted to hold said rod in position, said lid having a slot through which said tabs project, and means for locking said lid.

4. A card file comprising a box, a series of cards therein, transparent means on said box for retaining cards, said means defining a slot, a rod in said box beneath said slot, and a slotted tab extending from each card and projecting through said slot and threaded on said rod, the vertical dimension of the

slots in said tabs exceeding the diameter of said rod.

5. A card file comprising a box, a plurality of cards therein, means on said box for retaining cards, said means defining a slot, a rod in said box beneath the slot, and a slotted tab extending from each card and projecting through said slot in the retaining means and threaded on said rod, the distance, with each card in vertical position, of the rod from the lower edge of the corresponding tab slot being less than the distance from the upper edge of said card to said retaining means.

6. A card file comprising a box, a set of cards therein, a set of card guides, transparent means on said box for retaining said cards and guides, said means defining a slot, and a tab extending from the top of each card and on each guide and projecting through said slot.

7. A card file comprising a box, a set of cards therein, a lid on said box, transparent means on said lid for retaining cards, said means defining a slot, and a tab extending from each card and projecting through said slot.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

RICHARD BÄTKE.