July 10, 1928. 1,676,492

G. L. GOODWIN

CARD RACK

Filed Sept. 18, 1924



Fig 2

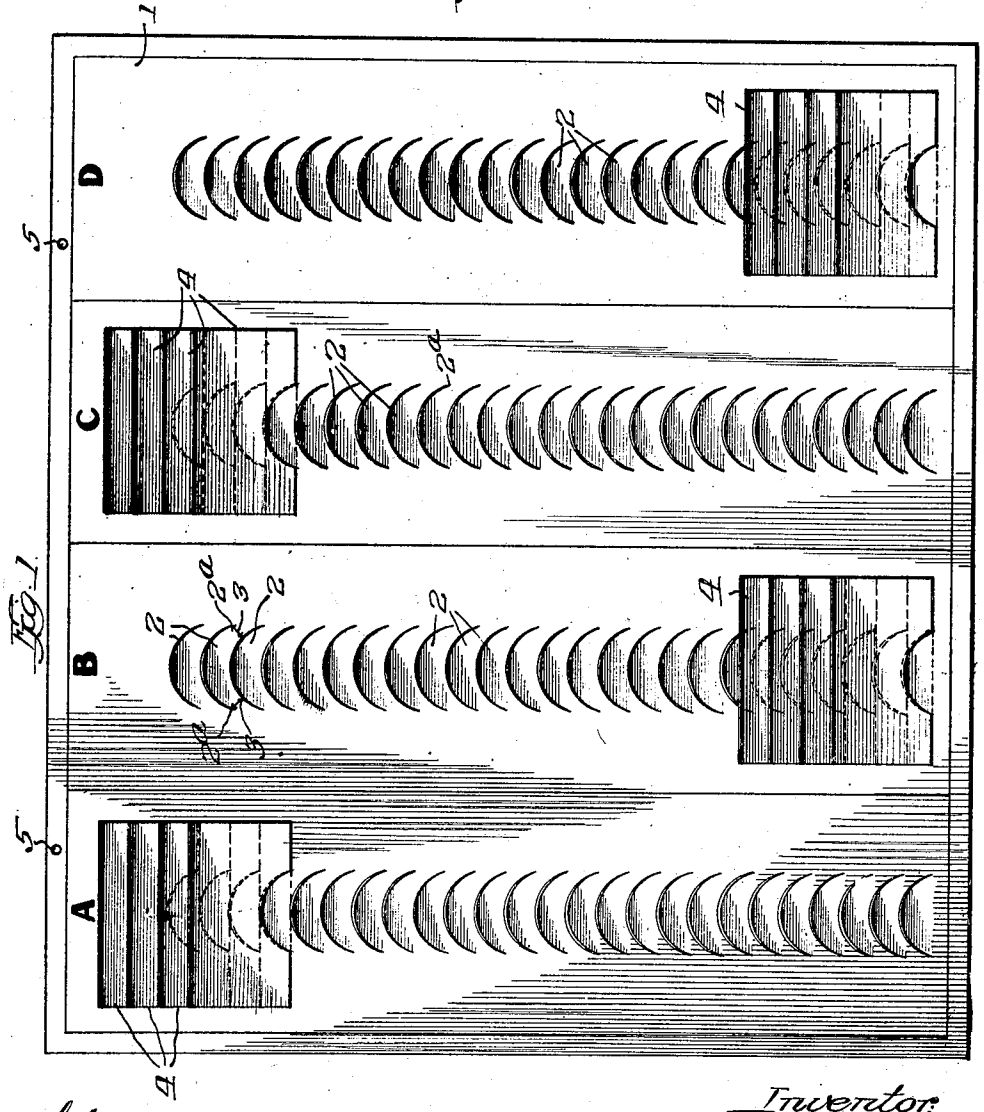


Fig 1

Witness:
Ed. C. Gerson

Inventor:
George L. Goodwin,
By Wilkinson, Huxley, Byron & Knight
Attys

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE L. GOODWIN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

CARD RACK.

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This invention relates to a rack in which a relatively large number of cards may be conveniently placed in any desired grouping or arrangement, and by which the cards will be firmly gripped and held with predetermined portions of the cards exposed to view. The invention is particularly adapted for displaying, through means of grouped cards disposed upon the rack, the names of persons subdivided into classes, for instance the names of prospects in a membership drive or other line of endeavor where a large number of persons are concerned, and in the carrying on of which endeavor it is desirable to present for ready comparison the numbers of persons collected by different teams engaged in the work.

The object of the invention is to provide a card rack which, notwithstanding it is made merely by inverted louvers or tongue-like portions from a sheet, will nevertheless be very efficient in gripping the cards introduced behind the tongues. Accordingly, while the invention follows known methods to the extent of using tongues punched from a sheet of appropriately stiff material to provide members behind which cards can be placed, it differs therefrom in that, instead of flexing the card-engaging members upon straight lines extending across the bases of such members, it causes these members, herein called louvers, to yield upon lines extending from each lower corner of the louver inwardly and downwardly toward the opening left by the formation of the next lower louver, and to arch outwardly about vertical axes but without any fixed line or definition of flexure, with the result that the louver is stiffened against flexing on horizontal lines and its gripping effect is maintained at substantially higher efficiency, and continues to be efficient much longer than when flexure is along a single definite line, because the latter soon results in breaking of the fibers. The new effect will be appreciated when it is considered that outward displacement of the louver sufficient to admit a card behind it, develops largely from an outward arching of a substantial area of the sheet material lying between the base of the louver and the next opening below it.

In order that the invention may be fully understood, a preferred embodiment thereof is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a face view of a card rack constructed in accordance with the present invention, and

Figure 2 is an edge view of the same.

In carrying out the invention, a sheet 1 of tag board, or equivalent stiff material, having an area sufficient to provide holding louvers for the desired number of cards, is punched by a suitable die to provide a vertical series of louvers 2, each of which constitutes a segment of a circle or other shape defined by lines that leave it free to move relatively to the main body of the sheet sufficiently to admit behind it a card that is to be displayed to view. The louvers 2 are located sufficiently close together to develop relatively restricted areas 3 between the corners 2^a of each louver, and the nearest point in the opening left by the next louver 2 beneath it, while the area of the original sheet material lying horizontally between the two corners 2^a of louver is left unscored and otherwise intact so that it retains the original rigidity of the sheet material and offers no tendency to induce flexing of the base of the louver on such line, but rather leads toward displacement of the louver incident to the location of a card 4 behind it, and induces flexure along lines more or less indefinite and inconstant, but corresponding approximately to the lines 3, the effect being, to some extent at least, in the nature of an arching of the relatively narrow strip of material indicated by the lines 3, with the result that the louver remains quite stiff and efficient in the matter of gripping the card and holding it in close parallelism with the body of the sheet or the surface of a card over which it laps.

The distance between the several louvers will be largely controlled by the extent to which each card is to be exposed above the card which lies beneath it, but this distance should not be so great as to bring the dimension indicated by the lines 3, anywhere near the distance between the two corners 2^a, which would result in inducing flexure of the louver along its horizontal base line or chord instead of arching under displacement by the card.

The louvers will preferably be arranged in

a number of vertical series as shown in Figure 1, which may be distinguished in any desired manner as is suggested by the group indexes A, B, C and D used upon the drawing.

In practice the card rack will be suitably suspended from its top, as for instance by engaging its perforations 5 with any suitable means of support.

I claim:

A card rack comprising a sheet of flexible material having a vertical series of slits cut therein to form a vertical column of card holding straps, each strap comprising all of the sheet material lying between adjacent slits and margins of uncut material on each side thereof resiliently resistant to displacement toward said column of straps, each strap normally lying in the plane of said sheet and the portion of each strap lying between its ends being displaceable from said plane outwardly to admit a card behind it and by said outward displacement imposing tension on the margins in the plane of the sheet, whereby the resistance of said margins tends to restore said tongues to their normal plane and grip the inserted card.

Signed at Chicago, Illinois, this 13th day of September, 1924.

GEORGE L. GOODWIN.