Oct. 9, 1923. 1,470,549

H. STEINMEYER

POCKET FILE CASE

Filed April 22. 1922

Fig. 1.

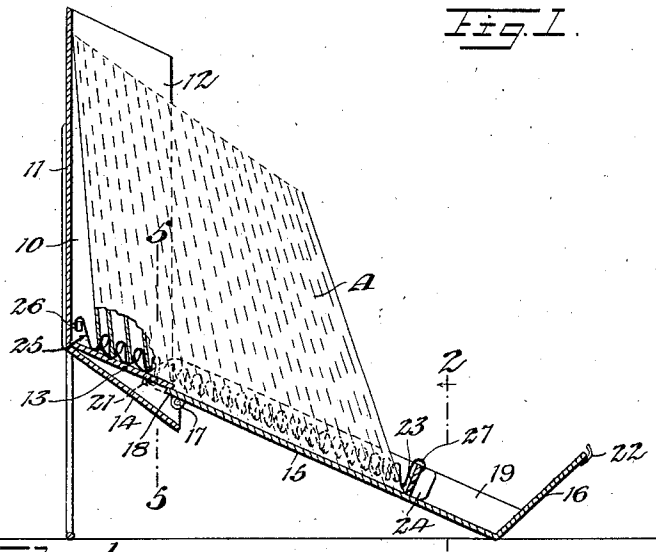


Fig. 2.

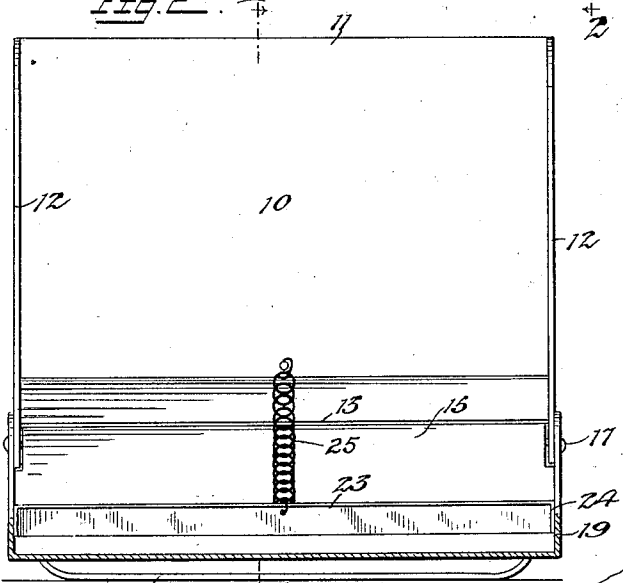


Fig. 3.

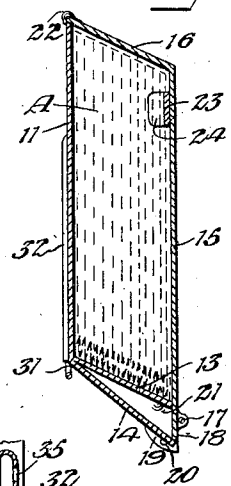


Fig. 4.

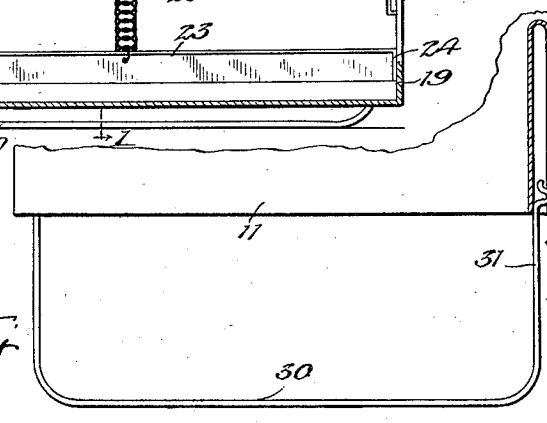
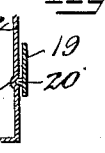


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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POCKET FILE CASE.

Application filed April 22, 1922. Serial No. 556,057.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERMANN STEINMEYER, a citizen of Germany, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Pocket File Case, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to an improvement in file cases which are particularly designed to be carried in the pocket for housing a card index system.

As an object the invention contemplates a file case which operates upon opening of the cover to automatically effect positive spreading and relative separation of the contents at their lower ends in a convenient position to be observed and consulted.

As a further object the invention contemplates a file case for housing a card index which includes means for rendering the same adjustable to compensate for variations in the number of contents. Furthermore the invention aims to produce means for disposing the upper edge of the cards contained in the case out of alignment whereby to facilitate the handling and manipulation of the cards.

As a still further object the invention contemplates in connection with a file case of the character described means for supporting the same from a table, desk, or the like, when the device is open.

The invention further contemplates a device of the character described which is comparatively simple in its construction and method of operation and which is highly efficient in its purpose.

With the above recited and other objects in view, the invention resides in the novel construction set forth in the following specification, particularly pointed out in the appended claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, it being understood that the right is reserved to embodiments other than those actually illustrated herein to the full extent indicated by the general meaning of the terms in which the claims are expressed.

In the drawing—

Figure 1 is a central sectional view of a file case constructed in accordance with the invention taken approximately on the line 1—1 of Fig. 2 and illustrating the same in open position.

Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view taken approximately on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 with the cards or contents removed.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 1 illustrating the case in closed position.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary rear elevation with parts in section to disclose the underlying structure.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary detail sectional view taken approximately on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings by characters of reference, the file case includes a body 10 which is provided with a rear wall 11, side walls 12 and inner and outer bottom walls 13 and 14 which are disposed at relative downward inclinations with respect to the rear wall. The upper edges of the side walls 12 are inclined correspondingly to the inner bottom wall 13. A cover consisting of a front wall 15 and a top wall 16 is hingedly connected by a transverse pin 17 to the body adjacent the lower portion thereof and the lower edge 18 of said front wall 15 is designed, when the cover is open to engage the under side of the front edge of the inner bottom wall 13 to dispose the front wall 15 at an inclination corresponding to the inner bottom wall 13. The cover is provided with side flanges 19 which are designed, when the device is closed, to extend over the outer side edges of the side walls 12 of the body. The lower extremities of the flanges 19 are provided with inwardly projecting teats 20 which are adapted to snap in depressions 21 in the side walls 12 for maintaining the cover in opened position against accidental or casual displacement. The top wall 16 is disposed at an inclination or angle corresponding to the inclination or angle of the upper edges of the side walls 12 whereby the same snugly fits over the upper end of the body when the device is in closed position. The free rear edge of the top wall 16 is provided with a spring catch 22 which engages over and coacts with the upper edge of the rear wall 11 to retain the device in closed position. A follower strip 23 preferably constructed of resilient material and provided at its opposite ends with angularly bent terminals 24 is disposed transversely of the front wall 15 between the flanges 19 and is longitudinally adjustable with respect to the front wall for limiting the gravitational separation of the lower edges of the index cards A when the case is opened. The follower 23 is maintained in longitudinally ad-

justed position due to the frictional engagement of the angular extremities 24 with the side flanges 19. In order to insure positive and even relative separation of the lower edges of the cards A, a spring element 25 may be employed, if desired, which consists of a coiled contractile spring connected at one extremity to the rear wall 11 as at 26 and formed at its opposite extremity with a hook 27 which is engageable over the follower 23. The lower edges of the cards A are respectively positioned between the convolutions of the spring 25 whereby when the case is opened and the hooked extremities 27 is engaged over the follower 23 the spring will be expanded whereby to effect positive relative separation of the lower edges. The angular disposition of the lower inner wall 13 and the corresponding angular disposition of the front wall 15 when the case is opened effect disposal of the upper edges of the cards A out of alignment whereby the user may readily manipulate the cards for obtaining the proper place. In order to permit of the set up of the case on a table, desk, or the like, a supporting bail 30 is provided, the arms 31 of which are slidable within the guides 32 on the outer side of the rear wall 11. The terminals of the arms 31 are provided with offset portions 33 which are adapted to respectively engage in the openings 34 and 35 of the guides to retain the bail in its closed or extended position. When in extended position the bail constitutes together with the forward edge of the front wall 15 a support for the case when in opened position.

In use and operation when the case is closed as illustrated in Fig. 3, the bail 30 is shifted to engage the offsets 33 in the openings 35 of the guides and the follower 23 is shifted to dispose the same in flat contact with the front wall 15. It is, of course, understood that where the element 25 is employed the hooked end 27 is detached from the follower prior to the closing of the case. To open the case the catch 22 is manipulated to effect its release and the cover is swung downwardly and outwardly until the lower edge 18 thereof which extends beyond the pivot pin 17 abuts and engages with the under forward edge of the inner bottom wall 13, which engagement limits the opening movement and at the same time disposes the front wall at an inclination corresponding to the inner bottom wall 13. When swung to this position the teats 20 of the flanges 19 engage within the depressions 21 to retain and hold the cover in proper position against accidental or casual closing. It is, of course, understood that in this position the body of the case is held vertical, thereby permitting the lower edges of the cards to gravitationally separate with respect to each other until the edge of the foremost card contacts with the follower 23 which serves as a limit to the spreading or separating action of the lower edges. The follower is adjusted longitudinally of the front wall in accordance with the number of index cards A contained in the case. If it is desired to set the case up on a table, desk, or the like, the bail 30 is pulled downwardly until the offsets 33 engage in the openings 34 of the guides 32. Where the element 25 is employed for effecting a positive and even separation of the lower edges of the cards, it is of course understood that the lower edges of the cards will be separately inserted between the convolutions of the same and when the case has been opened the element 25 will be expanded with its hooked forward end engaging over the follower. Upon releasing the hooked end 27, the element 25 will serve to retract or move the lower edges toward each other and withdraw the same into the confines of the body.

It will thus be seen that an extremely simple and inexpensive file case for housing index cards or indicia-bearing elements of this nature has been provided which affords convenient means for manipulating the cards or elements for locating the one desired. When not in use the case may be folded into a compact article for carrying in the pocket of the user.

I claim:

1. A pocket file case comprising a body having an inclined lower wall and a cover pivoted thereto and adapted upon opening thereof to constitute an extension tray providing a continuation of the lower inclined wall of the body for gravitationally effecting relative separation of the lower edges of the cards contained therein to facilitate the manipulation of the cards.

2. A pocket file case comprising a body having an inclined lower wall and a cover pivoted thereto and adapted upon opening thereof to constitute an extension tray providing a continuation of the lower inclined wall of the body for gravitationally effecting relative separation of the lower edges of the cards contained therein to facilitate the manipulation of the cards, and inter-engageable means provided respectively on the body and cover for yieldably maintaining the cover in its extended open position.

3. A pocket file case comprising a body having an inclined lower wall and a cover pivoted thereto and adapted upon opening thereof to constitute an extension tray providing a continuation of the lower inclined wall of the body for gravitationally effecting relative separation of the lower edges of the cards contained therein to facilitate the manipulation of the cards, interengageable means provided respectively on the body and cover for yieldably maintaining the cover in its extended open position,

and a follower member carried by the cover and longitudinally adjustable therein for limiting the relative separation of the card contents.

4. A pocket file case comprising a body having an inclined lower wall and a cover pivoted thereto and adapted upon opening thereof to constitute an extension tray providing a continuation of the lower inclined wall for the body for gravitationally effecting relative separation of the lower edges of the cards contained therein to facilitate the manipulation of the cards, interengageable means provided respectively on the body and cover for yieldably maintaining the cover in its extended open position, a follower member carried by the cover and longitudinally adjustable therein for limiting the relative separation of the card contents, and means secured to the body and engageable with the follower for effecting positive relative separation of the cards at their lower ends.

5. A pocket file case comprising a body having an inclined lower wall and a cover pivoted thereto and adapted upon opening thereof to constitute an extension tray providing a continuation of the lower inclined wall for the body for gavitationally effecting relative separation of the lower edges of the cards contained therein to facilitate the manipulation of the cards, interengageable means provided respectively on the body and cover for yieldably maintaining the cover in its extended open position, a follower member carried by the cover and longitudinally adjustable therein for limiting the relative separation of the card contents, means secured to the body and engageable with the follower for effecting positive relative separation of the cards at their lower ends, and means carried by the body and projectable from the lower edge thereof constituting together with the forward edge of the cover when in open position means for supporting the case from a horizontal support.

HERMANN STEINMEYER.