

Nov. 28, 1944.

E. E. WARD

2,363,761

COMBINATION BINDER AND CLIP

Filed May 21, 1943

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

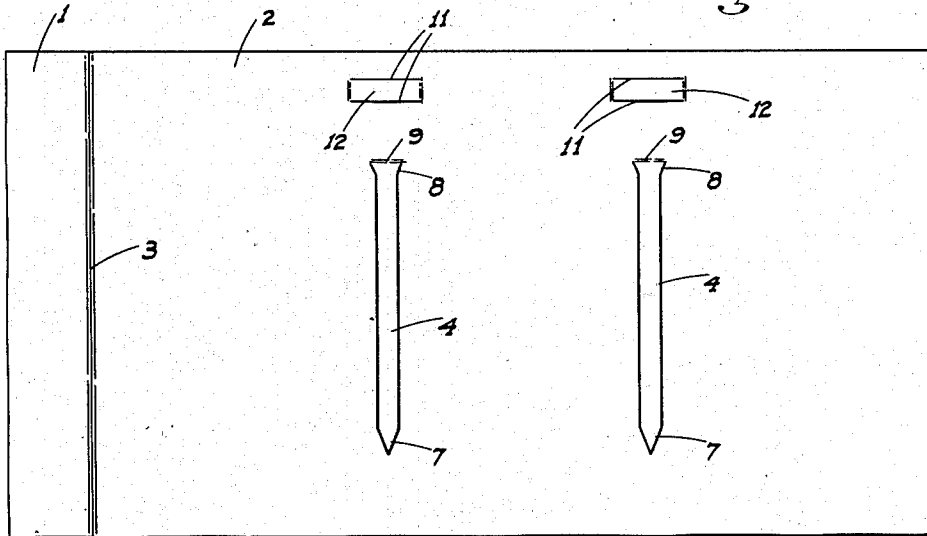


Fig. 2

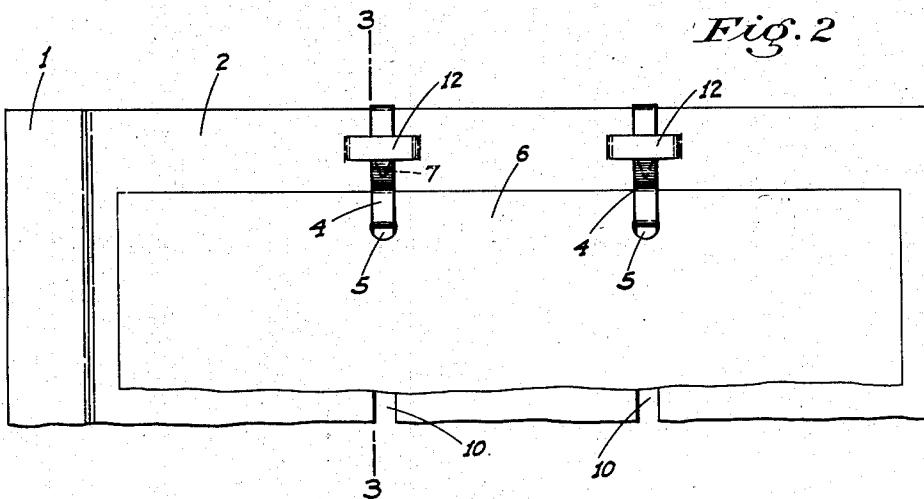
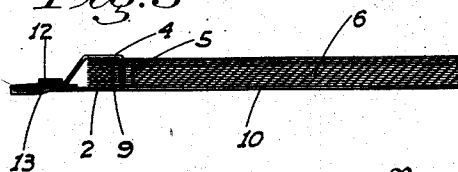


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

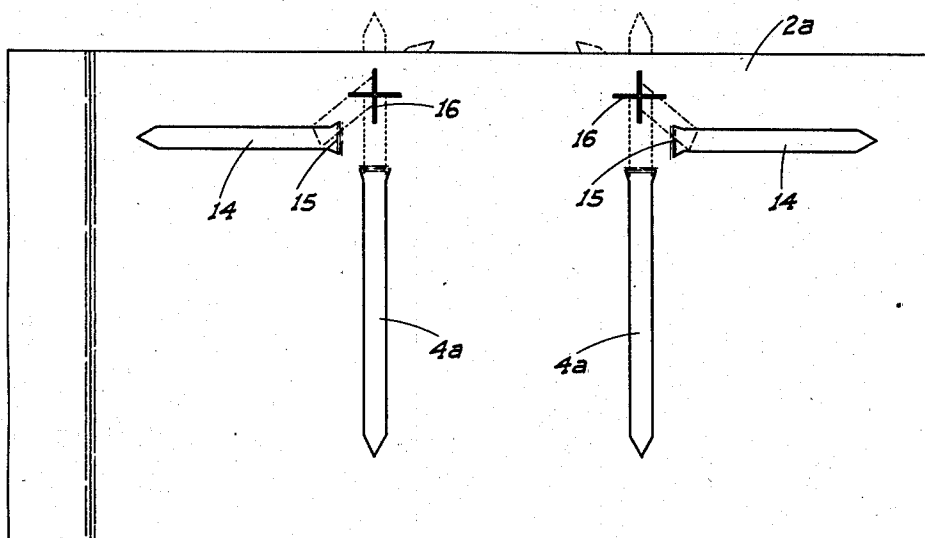


Fig. 5

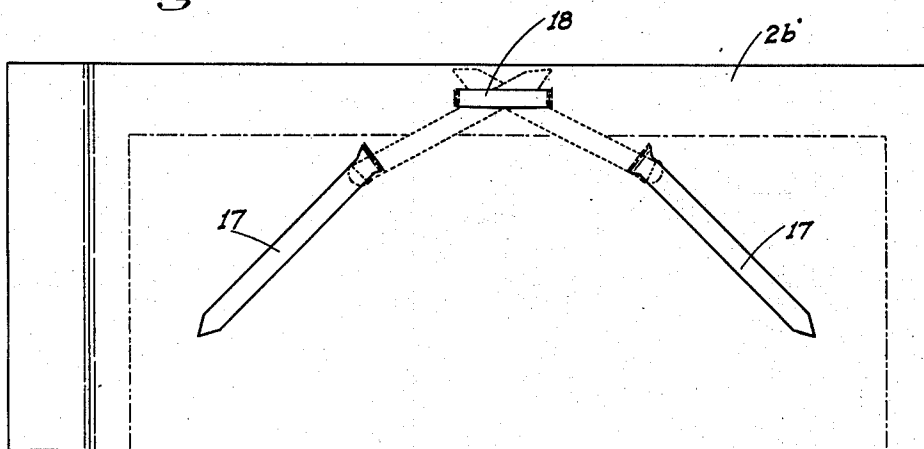


Fig. 6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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COMBINATION BINDER AND CLIP

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Application May 21, 1943, Serial No. 487,877

3 Claims. (Cl. 129—41)

This invention relates to binders or folders such as are used for retaining papers of different kinds such as letters, invoices, etc., either in offices or by salesmen in the field.

The principal object of my invention is to provide a combination binder and clip which avoids the need of any metal or other relatively scarce material in its manufacture, and which does not increase the manufacturing cost over that of a plain binder or folder, and no waste of material is ever involved in such manufacture.

Not only is the use of the usual metal or substitute-material clips avoided, but the papers may be placed on or removed from the binder easier than is the case with such usual clips, and such papers are as effectively held, whether one or a considerable number of papers are mounted in the binder. This result is obtained by forming the clip structure integral with the binder, in such a way that the clips may be used or manipulated many times without failure so that ordinarily they may be considered good for the life of the binder itself.

These objects I accomplish by means of such structure and relative arrangement of parts as will fully appear by a perusal of the following specification and claims.

In the drawings similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several views:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary inside view of the binder equipped with one form of clip.

Figure 2 is a similar view showing the clips as in use.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary cross section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary inside view of a binder showing a modified combination arrangement of clips.

Figure 5 is a similar view showing a further modified positioning of the clip-tabs.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary plan showing a reinforced tab.

Referring now more particularly to the characters of reference on the drawings, and particularly at present to Figs. 1 to 3, the binder includes as usual front and back covers 1 and 2 made of light and flexible but tough cardboard, and hinged adjacent their vertical edge as at 3 for folding movement.

Stamped from the cover 2 are relatively long parallel clip tabs 4, extending downwardly some distance from a point relatively close to the top edge of the cover, and spaced apart correspond-

ing to the punchings 5 of the loose leaves or papers 6 which the binder is arranged to hold. The tabs are pointed as at 7 on their lower end and are free of the cover throughout their extent, except at the top where they are made somewhat wider for strength, as at 8, and remain integral with the cover along a line 9 extending parallel to the top edge of the cover.

The tabs, while initially remaining in the slots 10 formed in the cover by the stamping of the tabs, may be bent upwardly at a point adjacent their connected ends and passed through the punchings in any desired number of papers. Between the upper connected ends of the tabs and the top edge of the cover 2 and in vertical alignment with the tabs, said cover is provided with short pairs of parallel transversely extending slits 11 forming straps 12 therebetween which remain connected at their ends with the cover. These straps are adapted to receive the free ends of the tabs thereunder in order to bind the papers 6 in place. In order to prevent undesired slipping and withdrawal of the tabs from engagement with the straps, said tabs after being passed therethrough may be bent about and under the top edge of the cover, and then threaded back onto said cover from below the straps through the lower slits 11, as indicated at 13 in Fig. 3.

The tabs are sufficiently long to enable a considerable number of papers 6 to be held in place, and the quality and nature of the material of which the binder and consequently the tabs is made, enables the tabs to be bent or folded many times without any tendency to tear across or suffer material deterioration.

In the form of the device shown in Fig. 4, the binder cover 2a is formed with a pair of horizontally extending tabs 14, as well as with a pair of parallel vertical tabs 4a. The integral or connected ends 15 of the tabs 14, which project in opposite directions or away from each other, are somewhat further apart than the tabs 4a so that the one binder may be used for papers having different punch spacings.

In order to engage and hold the free ends of either pair of tabs when the latter are passed through the papers, a pair of crossing slit units are stamped through the cover 2a in line with the tabs 4a and above the same, as well as above the tabs 14; so that said slit units are exposed above the held papers irrespective of which pair of tabs is used. The crossed slits provide for the ready slipping or threading of the tabs therethrough and for the most convenient engagement with either pair of tabs.

In the arrangement shown in Fig. 5 the tabs 17 extend in diagonally diverging relation from their upper connected ends, and at said ends are spaced according to a predetermined page or leaf spacing. With this tab arrangement I provide a single horizontal tab engaging strap 18 above and disposed centrally therebetween. This slot is of a length sufficient to receive the ends of both tabs when the latter are bent over the held papers and extend diagonally of the cover and strap.

As stated, the cover and tab material is of a nature to withstand considerable manipulation and wear, but if desired the pointed ends of the tabs may be metal sheathed, as at 19, or otherwise reinforced to stiffen the same in order to facilitate the threading of the tabs through the straps or slits and prevent possible collapse of the tab points.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that I have produced such a device as substantially fulfills the objects of the invention as set forth herein.

While this specification sets forth in detail the present and preferred construction of the device, still in practice such deviations from such detail may be resorted to as do not form a departure from the spirit of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and useful and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A combination binder and clip comprising a binder sheet on which to rest a punched paper to be bound, a pair of parallel flexible and bendable tabs disposed in predetermined spaced relation and extending downwardly relative to the top edge of the sheet and connected to the sheet only at their ends nearest said top edge, the tabs diverging from said ends, the sheet having a pair of parallel slits cut therethrough between the

top edge of the sheet and the connected ends of the tabs centrally therebetween to form a strap for the passage thereunder of the free ends of both tabs.

2. A self-contained loose leaf binder comprising a flat substantially rectangular holder sheet, an elongated tab blanked out of such sheet and connected therewith at one end of the tab only, such connected end lying adjacent to but spaced from one edge of the sheet, a relatively short strip blanked out of the sheet and connected at both ends to the sheet, such strip lying in the space between the fastened end of the tab and the edge of the sheet which is adjacent the fastened end of the tab, the distance between the strip and connected end of the tab and the length of the tab being such that the tab may be projected upwardly through perforations in a number of loose leaf sheets and then under the strip whereby to hold such loose leaf sheets together on the holder sheet.

3. A self-contained loose leaf binder comprising a flat substantially rectangular holder sheet, an elongated tab blanked out of such sheet and connected therewith at one end of the tab only, such connected end lying adjacent to but spaced from one edge of the sheet, a relatively short strip blanked out of the sheet and connected at both ends to the sheet, such strip lying in the space between the fastened end of the tab and the edge of the sheet which is adjacent the fastened end of the tab, the distance between the strip and connected end of the tab and the length of the tab being such that the tab may be projected upwardly through perforations in a number of loose leaf sheets and then under the strip and back of the holder sheet, then over the edge of the latter and back under the strip whereby to hold such loose leaf sheets together on the holder sheet.

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