E. F. DAYTON, DEC'D.

L. P. DAYTON, ADMINISTRATRIX.

REFERENCE INDEX.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 31, 1916.

1,250,568. Patented Dec. 18, 1917.

Fig. 1.

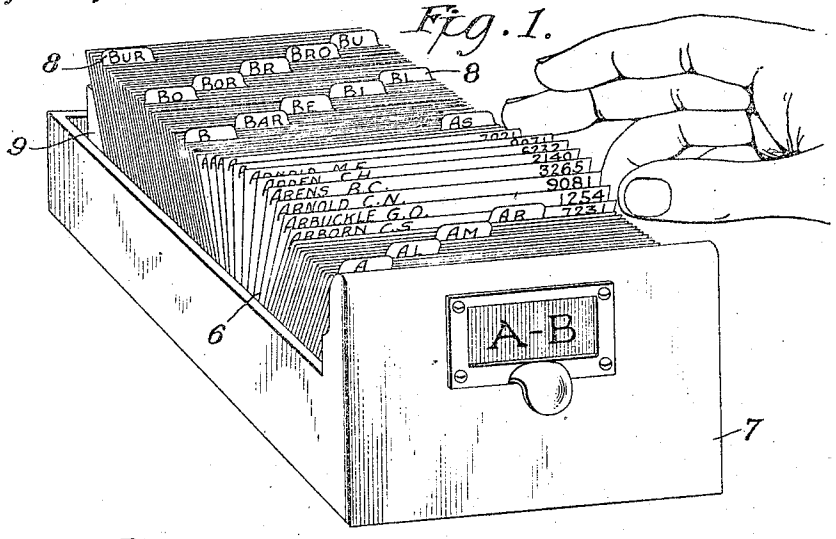


Fig. 2.

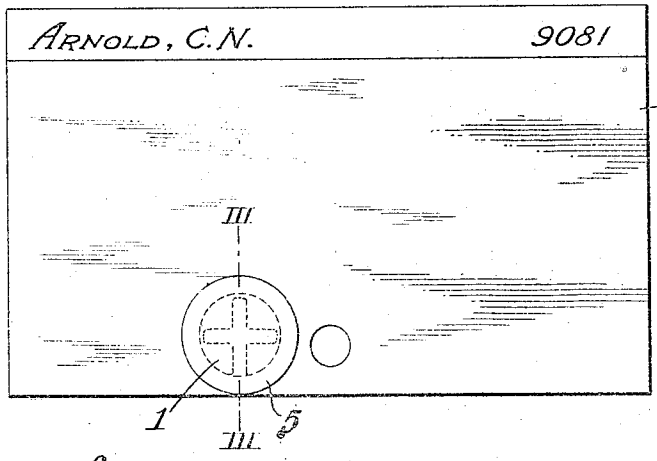


Fig. 3.

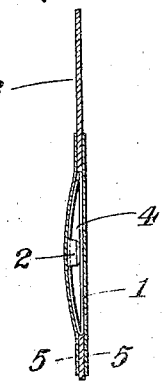


Fig. 4.

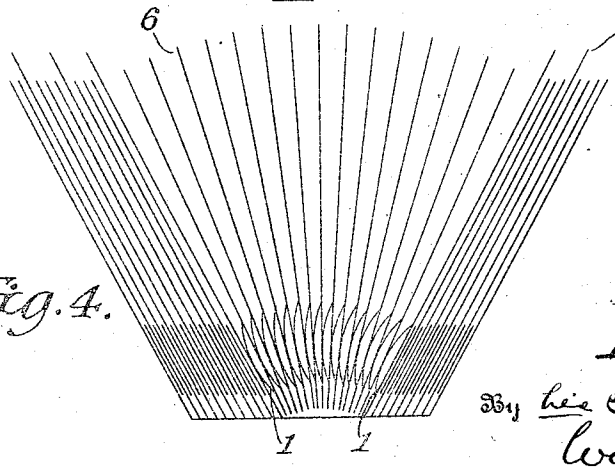
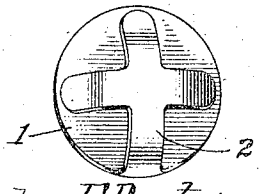


Fig. 5.



Estey F. Dayton, Decd
Lucie Pinckney Dayton,
Administratrix

By her Attorney
William G. McKnight

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ESTEY F. DAYTON, DECEASED, LATE OF NEW YORK, N. Y., BY LUCIE PINCKNEY DAYTON, ADMINISTRATRIX, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

REFERENCE-INDEX.

1,250,568. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Dec. 18, 1917.**

Application filed January 31, 1916. Serial No. 75,372.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that ESTEY F. DAYTON, deceased, late a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, invented new and useful Improvements in Reference-Indexes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates particularly to card indexes or vertical files in which the sheets or cards, bearing the record or data, lie close against each other and are arranged in numerical order or alphabetically according to subject matters. Interspersed among the reference cards are guide cards which assist the searcher in determining the approximate location of the desired card. In using a card index of this character, it is necessary to finger or pick over one by one a large number of cards before locating the desired card, causing waste of time and annoyance.

The object is to eliminate these defects, and this object is accomplished by providing means, located between the members, acting to spread or fan apart the reference members, so that the numbers, or other identifying matter, placed close to the edges of the cards, will be visible to the eye, resulting in the quick location of, removal and replacing of, the desired card.

In the drawings, forming a part hereof, Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a well-known card index, the individual members of which are provided with means for spreading them apart at their top edges; Fig. 2 is a plan view and Fig. 3 is a section on the line III—III of Fig. 2, of a reference card equipped with one form of the means for spreading the cards apart; Fig. 4 is an end view of a number of cards, the springs of some of which are compressed so that the cards lie close to each other and others of which are spread apart by the action of the intervening springs, and Fig. 5 is a plan view of one form of spring device.

One form of compressible spring device is shown in Fig. 5, and consists of a disk 1 of thin spring metal, having a compressible spring 2, in the form of a cross, of the same material, bent over so that the ends only of the arms rest upon the disk, each arm, near the central portion of the disk, being sprung out and away from the disk.

A reference card 3 has formed in it, preferably near its lower edge, an opening 4, in which is located the compressible spring disk 1, and which is retained therein by thin sheets of paper 5, placed over the spring disk and attached to the card 3.

A plurality of reference cards 6, bearing at their top edges identifying numbers or names, and equipped with my compressible spring 1, are shown, in Fig. 1, located in a drawer or container 7, interspersed among which reference cards are a number of guide cards 8. Containers or drawers of the type in common use have at the front end a permanent slant block (not shown) and an adjustable slanting follower block 9 at the rear of the cards, against which blocks the cards rest. This arrangement results in a limitation of the space in the bottom of the container in which the cards rest on their lower edges, but giving ample room to spread apart at their top edges. When any two guide cards or reference cards are moved apart, the spring in each card acts against the next adjacent card to spread the intervening cards apart and also to raise the cards slightly off the bottom of the container, as shown in Fig. 4, which movements result in spreading apart or fanning the top edges of the cards.

It is to be understood that applicant does not limit herself to the precise form of separating means or method of location between the reference members herein illustrated, as she considers herself entitled to broadly cover all means, located between reference members of an index or file, acting to spread apart said members so as to render visible the reference data on the edges of said members and facilitate their removal and replacement.

I claim:

1. In a reference member for use in a reference index, the combination of a compressible spring inserted in an opening cut in

the face of said member, and means for retaining said spring in said opening.

2. A reference member for a card index, comprising a card having an opening therein, a compressible spring located in said opening, said spring occupying, when compressed, substantially only the space in said opening between the surfaces of said card and acting, when uncompressed upon the adjacent card, to move said cards apart, and means to retain said spring in said opening.

LUCIE PINCKNEY DAYTON,
Administratrix of Estey F. Dayton, deceased.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents. Washington, D. C."