Dec. 30, 1952 J. C. CONDON 2,623,311

SELF-ATTACHING INDEX TAB

Filed Feb. 4, 1950

Fig. 1.

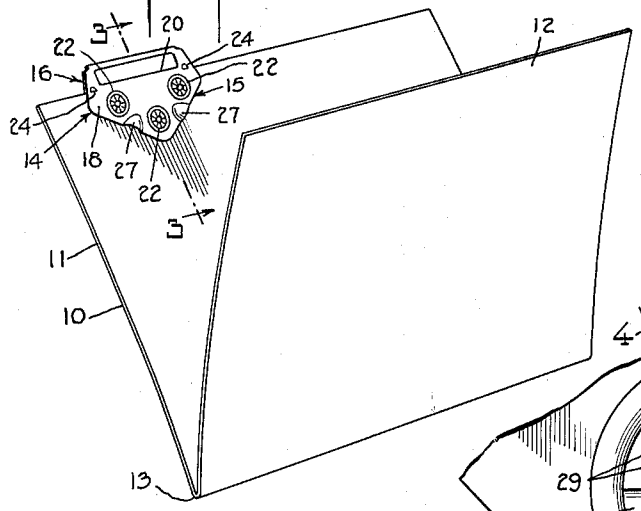


Fig. 2.

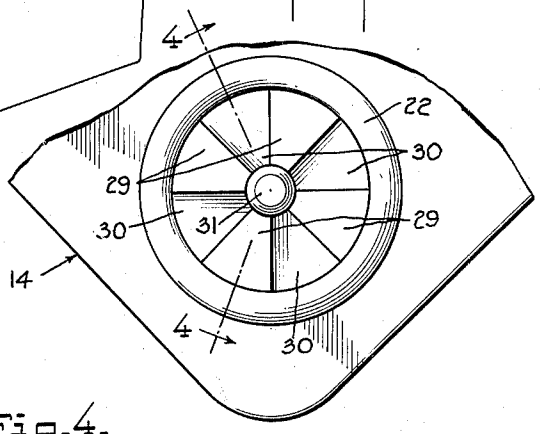


Fig. 3.

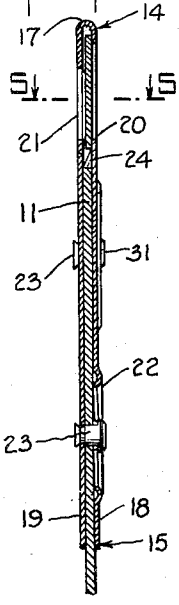


Fig. 7.

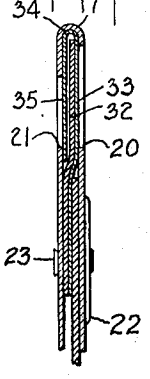


Fig. 4.

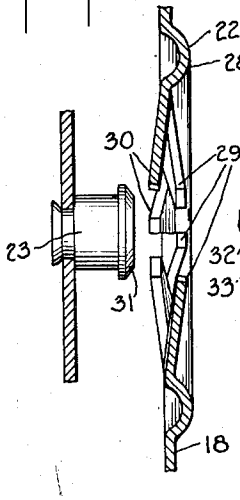


Fig. 6.

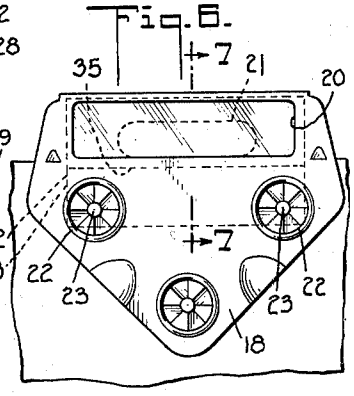
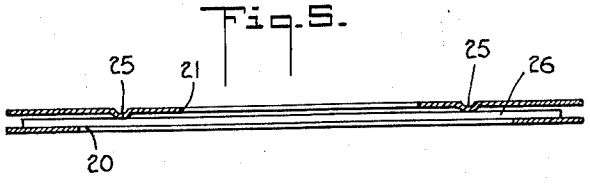


Fig. 5.



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SELF-ATTACHING INDEX TAB

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4 Claims. (Cl. 40—23)

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This invention relates to what I term "snap tabs," particularly devices of this type and kind, wherein the structure of the male and female coupling portions of the snap device are such as to automatically pierce a sheet of paper or other material in the operation of attaching the tab to the sheet. More particularly, the invention deals with a device of the character described, wherein the female or socket portion of the device includes spring members normally flexed in opposed directions to each other with reference to an intermediate line in providing secure coupling of the male or stud member therewith.

Still more particularly, the invention deals with a tab having means for automatically securing a name card or ticket together with a transparent covering therefor in the tab prior to, or in the operation of, attaching the same to a supporting sheet or folder.

The novel features of the invention will be best understood from the following description, when taken together with the accompanying drawing, in which certain embodiments of the invention are disclosed and, in which, the separate parts are designated by suitable reference characters in each of the views and, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a file folder showing one of my snap tabs mounted thereon.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged face view of one part of the tab with the male and female portions in coupled relationship.

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1 on an enlarged scale.

Fig. 4 is a partial section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2 on an enlarged scale and showing the socket and stud parts of the device all detached.

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a detail face view of a tab attached to a supporting sheet illustrating a modified use of the tab; and

Fig. 7 is a partial section on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

My invention deals with what I term a "tab" which may be utilized as a support for name or title strips as applied to file folders or directly to sheets or groups of sheets for convenient filing with the tab protruding from an edge of the folder or the sheet or sheets for convenient and accessible selection when stored away in a filing cabinet.

In the accompanying drawing, I have shown one use of the device, for example, as applied to a file folder 10, as seen in Fig. 1 of the drawing. The folder 10 has two sides 11 and 12, within and between which letters or other papers can be arranged for filing away in a file cabinet of any type or kind, the folder in the construction shown being formed from a single sheet of material folded as seen at 13. Attached to the

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edge portion of one side of the folder, for example, the side 11, and at any desired position along said edge is one of my improved tab devices 14.

The tab device, as considered generally, comprises a substantially triangular windowed indexing portion 16. The tab 14 is formed from a single sheet of material folded centrally, as seen at 17, note Fig. 3, to bring the sides 18 and 19 in alined relationship to each other. These sides are generally of the same outline contour, the side 18 having an elongated opening 20 in the portion 16 and extending throughout the major portion of the length of said portion; whereas, the side 19 has a smaller opening 21.

The side 18 of the tab or the attaching portion 15 of said side has three socket members 22 formed from the material thereof; whereas, the side 19 has, centrally with respect to the sockets 22, headed pin or stud members 23.

The side 18 has, at the intersection between the portions 15 and 16, inwardly pressed stops 24, against which the upper edge of the sheet 11 is adapted to rest to guide attachment of the tab 14 to the sheet 11. The side portion 19 has, at the sides of the opening 21, inwardly pressed vertically arranged ribs 25, note Fig. 5, which provide a frictional engagement of a name-card or indexing card 26 to support the same in proper alined position with the opening 20. The diverging edges of the side 18, between the sockets 22, have outwardly pressed portions 27 which facilitate detachment of the tab whenever desired.

As each of the sockets 22 and the companion studs 23 are of the same construction, the brief description of one will apply to all and, in Figs. 2 and 4 of the drawing, I have shown in detail one of the socket and stud members. The socket 22 comprises an annular outwardly pressed bead 28, within which are circumferentially spaced series of fingers, one series of fingers 29 being flexed outwardly; whereas, the other series 30 of fingers are flexed inwardly as will be most clearly seen in Fig. 4 of the drawing. The inward and outward flexures are with respect to the normal plane of the sheet or strip forming the side 18 and, in attaching the stud 23, the bevelled head 31 of the stud forcibly passes through both of the spring fingers 29 and 30 and, in this operation, pierces or severs the sheet or sheets being coupled together by the device. When the sides 18 and 19 are joined, the heads 31 of the studs 23 are beyond the outwardly flexed spring fingers 29. It will be understood that the fingers 29 and 30 will be pressed into a substantial alinement with each other, particularly if the sheet or sheets joined apply sufficient pressure upon the inner fingers 30.

By providing the oppositely flexed groups of

fingers 29 and 30 a secure coupling between the sides 18 and 19 is provided and thus a firm mounting upon the supporting card, sheet or sheets. In some instances, and with some types and kind of mountings, the mounting may be pre-perforated to receive the studs but in normal uses and with several sheets of paper or using thin cardboard or fibreboard, the studs, in combination with the sockets, will automatically form their own openings in the supporting sheets.

In Figs. 6 and 7 of the drawing, I have shown a slight modification, wherein a name card or title strip is fixedly secured in position within the tab by snap-engagement with the uppermost stud and socket members of the tab and this card or strips is further enclosed in a transparent facing sheet covering front and rear surfaces thereof, particularly around the openings of the tab. As the tab 14 is of the precise structure of the tab shown in Fig. 1, like references will designate like parts and considering Fig. 6 of the drawing it will appear that the upper sockets 22 of the side portion 18, including the stud members 23, pass through lower corner portions of a title strip or sheet 32 and a transparent or translucent facing strip or sheet 33. The card or strip 32 terminates at the upper folded portion 17 of the tab, as clearly seen in Fig. 7, whereas the sheet 33 is folded, as seen at 34, and includes a back portion 35 of sufficient length to completely cover the opening 21.

Considering Fig. 6, it will appear that the sheets 32, 33 indicated in dotted lines in said figure are of a width greater than the length of the opening 20 and this width is maintained throughout the full length of the facing sheet 33. With this construction, the transparently covered title strip or sheet 32 can be mounted in the tab at any time and, then, the tab can be attached to the supporting card or sheet in the same manner as attaching the device, as seen in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawing. With the structure, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7, it will be understood that the title sheet, as well as its transparent or translucent covering, is fixedly retained in the tab against displacement. At the same time, these two cards or strips 32 and 33 can be removed from the tab and new ones substituted whenever desired.

While devices of the kind under consideration can be utilized in various types and kinds of indexing for files of various descriptions and used in connection with file folders, file partitioning cards and the like, it will also be apparent that these tabs can be directly coupled with several sheets of correspondence for filing purposes and without the use of a mounting card or sheet.

It will also be apparent that I am not limited to the particular contour of the tab herein shown, nor to the use of any particular number of the male and female couplings portions, such as the socket and stud members.

It will also be understood that tabs of the kind under consideration will take-up little or no room in a filing cabinet by reason of the fact that the complete tab is made of thin sheet material which, in the assemblage of the parts, adds very little to the over-all thickness of the file. Furthermore, there are no rough or protruding edges which would interfere with the placement of files in a cabinet or the removal of the same therefrom.

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

1. A device of the character described comprising a pair of plates, means comprising socket and stud parts on said plates for coupling the same together and for detachable mounting on a supporting sheet, said plates including portions protruding beyond an edge of the supporting sheet, and said socket parts comprising groups of straight spring fingers, fingers of one group being alternate to the fingers of the other group, one group of straight fingers being flexed in a direction away from and opposed to that of the other alternate group of straight fingers.

2. A device of the character described comprising a pair of plates, means comprising socket and stud parts on said plates for coupling the same together and for detachable mounting on a supporting sheet, said plates including portions protruding beyond an edge of the supporting sheet, said socket parts comprising groups of straight spring fingers, fingers of one group being alternate to the fingers of the other group, one group of straight fingers being flexed in a direction away from and opposed to that of the other alternate group of straight fingers, and said straight spring fingers integrally joining the plate in an annular beaded portion.

3. A device of the character described comprising a pair of plates, means comprising socket and stud parts on said plates for coupling the same together and for detachable mounting on a supporting sheet, said plates including portions protruding beyond an edge of the supporting sheet, said socket parts comprising groups of straight spring fingers, fingers of one group being alternate to the fingers of the other group, one group of straight fingers being flexed in a direction away from and opposed to that of the other alternate group of straight fingers, said straight spring fingers integrally joining the plate in an annular beaded portion, and said stud parts having flat bevelled heads at the outer ends thereof.

4. In devices of the character described, comprising spaced plates adapted for detachable mounting on opposed surfaces of a supporting sheet, one plate having a headed stud fixed thereto, the other plate having a spring socket adapted to be engaged by said stud in securing the plates together and to an intervening sheet disposed therebetween, said socket comprising a plurality of circumferentially spaced straight spring members integrally joining said plate in an annular beaded portion, and alternate spring members of said socket being normally flexed in opposite directions and away from each other.

JOHN C. CONDON.

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