May 31, 1932. T. B. CLARK 1,860,804

SIGNAL HOLDER FOR INDEXES

Filed Sept. 17, 1928

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

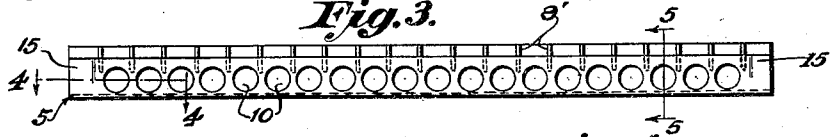


Fig. 4.

Fig. 1.

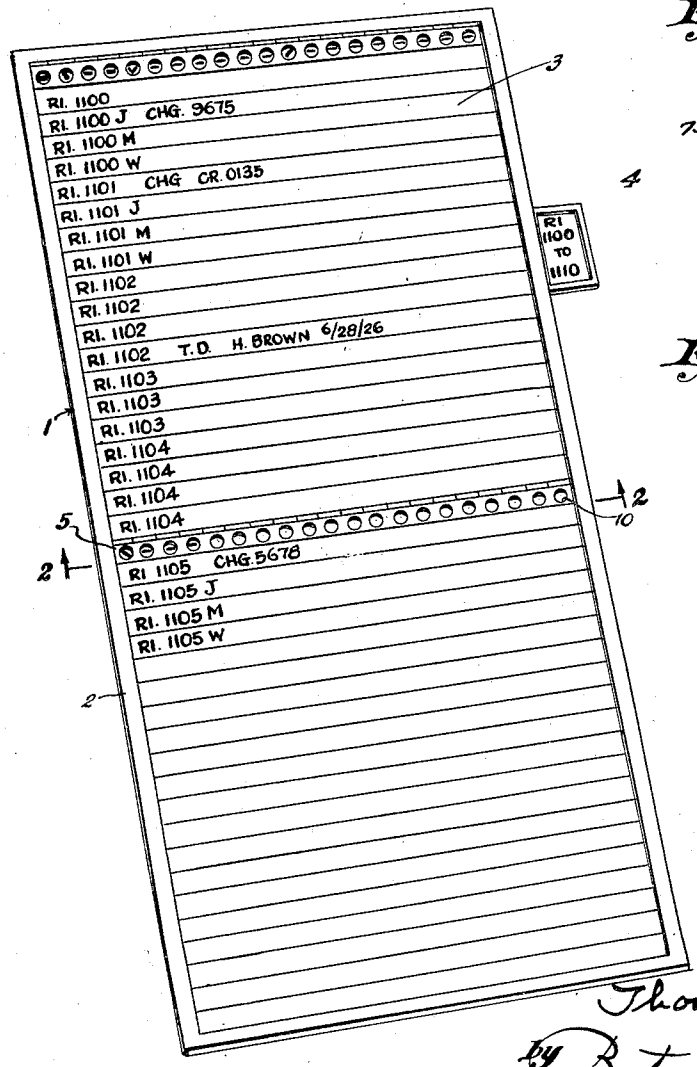


Fig. 5.

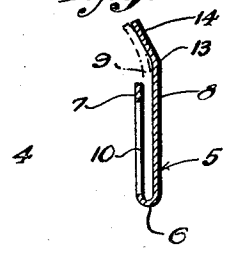
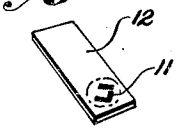


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SIGNAL HOLDER FOR INDEXES

Application filed September 17, 1928. Serial No. 306,507.

This invention relates to signal holders for indexes.

In telephone exchanges it is customary to use a series of index strips of relatively long and narrow form having the end portions engaged under the flanges at the sides of an index panel, so that the strips are arranged in end to end relation, and independently detachable from the panel. In a particular type of index systems used in telephone exchanges known as "centralized intercepting records" these strips are employed for indexing the subscribers to telephones, particularly those having party lines, while a series of other but similar strips are utilized for receiving information relative to the condition of the telephone service for adjacent index strips.

The present invention is directed to improvements in these centralized intercepting records by the provision of a special signal holder having a new and special combination in association with the index strips in a panel for conveying information relative to said index strips in a different manner than has heretofore been used.

The invention further comprehends the provision of a special type of index signal holder formed from a strip of material in an economical manner, for receiving a plurality of index signals, so that one holder may be associated with a group of index strips to removably receive said signals for indicating the condition of certain information with respect to the index matter on the associated strips. The index file is further improved by segregating the index strips into groups, and by eliminating the use of a large number of associated strips, thereby providing for an increase in the capacity of the file.

The invention includes numerous other features relating to the combination of the new signal holder with the index strips and the file, in addition to special features residing in the construction of a signal holder, all of which are more particularly pointed out in the following detailed description and claims, directed to a preferred form of the invention, it being understood, however, that various changes in the relation and association of the several parts, together with the construction of a signal holder, may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as herein set forth.

In the drawings forming part of this application,

Fig. 1 is a perspective of a conventional type of index panel illustrating two groups of index strips of a conventional form well known in the art, and showing the new signal holder in associated relation therewith.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the signal holder shown on an enlarged scale.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken approximately on line 4—4 of Fig. 3 and shown on a substantially enlarged scale.

Fig. 5 is a view taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 3 showing the signal holder substantially enlarged.

Fig. 6 is a perspective showing one of the signals adapted for use in the signal holder.

An index panel is indicated generally at 1, which is any of the usual types well known and used in the art. This panel as illustrated, is provided with flanges 2 on the opposite side edges in the usual manner forming channels to receive the ends of the index strips 3. These index strips are usually formed of thin, narrow, elongated strips which may be flexed to insert the ends under the flanges 2. The resiliency of the strips normally retains them in flat relation against the panel 1 while the edges of adjacent strips engage one another in the manner shown in Fig. 1 so that all of the strips will be retained in visible relation on the panel. A suitable index for the panel is indicated at 4 so that a desired index strip 3 may be referred to by the use of this index 4 where a series of panels are used to form an index unit. When the index strips 3 are used in a centralized intercepting record, they usually contain information relative to the names and telephone numbers of subscribers of the telephone company using the index, so that certain information may be recorded on the

index panel relative to the service of each particular subscriber.

The signal holder of this invention is designed for signalling information relative to certain subscribers shown by the index strips in the panel for the information of the operators using this index. For this purpose the index strips 3 are divided into groups of predetermined numbers, and a signal holder 5 is associated with each group of strips.

The signal holder 5 is formed of a strip of metal or other suitable material which is relatively thin and adapted to hold its shape and yet have sufficient inherent resiliency that it may be flexed for insertion or removal from the panel 1; and at the same time be capable of normally lying flat against the panel 1 when inserted into its position between adjacent groups of index strips. The strip from which this signal holder is formed is folded longitudinally intermediate its side edges as indicated at 6 to form a front portion 7 and a back portion 8 which is wider than the front portion. These portions 7 and 8 of the signal holder are spaced apart in parallel relation as illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5, while the back portion 8 is formed with a series of transversely extending inwardly directed beads 8′ arranged in spaced parallel relation for dividing the holder into a series of signal receiving pockets. These signal receiving pockets extend transversely of the strip and have an entrance opening 9 shown in Fig. 5 at the free edge of the front portion 7, this front portion being formed with a series of openings 10, one for each pocket, for displaying the signalling information 11 on the signal 12 as shown in Fig. 6. The signal 12 is shown merely for the purpose of illustration and may contain any designation similar to that shown at 11 according to any system of indexing which may be desired, and there may be a series of signals containing various characters or designations designed for use to signal certain facts with respect to the index system in a file, the one illustrated in Fig. 6 being merely an example of one form of signal for use in this signal holder.

The free edge of the back portion 8 is formed with a bend 13 slightly beyond the free edge of the front portion 7 so that the marginal portion 14 of this back portion 8 is inclined forwardly as shown in Fig. 5. This is for the purpose of bending the end of the signal 12 forwardly when inserted in one of the pockets in the holder as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 5, so that it may be readily grasped with the fingers for removal from the holder. This marginal portion 14 also serves, during the insertion of a signal into one or more of the pockets, to guide the end of the signal into the pocket and places a sufficient tension on the signal so that it frictionally engages between the front and rear portions 7 and 8 of the holder and is thereby effectively maintained in position during the handling of the file, against accidental displacement.

The end portions of the signal holder are not formed with pockets, but have the front and back portions 7 and 8 formed together as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 at 15, to provide lugs for engaging under the flanges 2 of the panel 1, so that the signal holder may be readily retained in position in the panel. The beads 8′ as shown in Fig. 4 engage the inner side of the front portion 7 for retaining this front portion in proper spaced relation from the back portion in forming the pockets for the signal.

In the use of a signal holder of this character it is preferable to position it between index strips after the same are arranged in groups so that the holders form dividers between adjacent groups of index strips as shown in Fig. 1. There will be one signal holder for each group so that in most cases a signal holder will occur at the top of each panel as shown in Fig. 1 for signalling cooperation with the group of strips immediately below it, while the succeeding signal holders in the panel will have signalling cooperation with the group of index strips below it.

In the use of this signal holder, each pocket corresponds to one index strip of the group. There may be fewer index strips than there are pockets in the holder when desired, but it is not desirable to use more index strips in any group than there are pockets in the holder. A signal occurring in one of the pockets signals certain information with respect to a certain index strip in the group, and the characters on the signal displayed through the opening 10 will determine the information signalled according to some prearranged system of indexing of the well known character above referred to.

With this improved signal holder which occupies substantially the same amount of space longitudinally of the panel as occupied by one of the index strips, it will be seen that information may be carried therein relative to one or all of the strips in the group associated therewith. This information is displayed transversely of the panel and thereby occupies a relatively small space, at the same time signalling information relative to the entire group of strips when desired. This invention makes for substantial improvement in this type of index by using a minimum amount of space for signalling any desired information in respect to a substantially large group of strips.

What is claimed is:

1. An index having in combination, a supporting panel, a plurality of index strips ar-

ranged in said panel in groups, and signal holders arranged in said panel forming dividers between adjacent groups of index strips, each signal holder having a plurality of signal retaining devices arranged in spaced relation thereon and corresponding to each index strip of a group.

2. An index having in combination, a supporting panel, a plurality of index strips arranged in said panel in groups, and signal holders arranged in said panel forming dividers between adjacent groups of index strips, each signal holder having a plurality of signal receiving pockets corresponding to each index strip of a group.

3. A signal holder for indexes, comprising a strip member formed with a plurality of independent signal receiving pockets, and index panel engaging lugs on the ends of said strip member.

4. A signal holder for indexes, comprising a strip member having one edge portion overlying an adjacent portion in spaced relation, said strip member being formed to provide a plurality of signal receiving pockets, and means for attaching said strip member to an index panel.

5. A signal holder for indexes, comprising a folded strip member formed to provide a series of pockets between the folded portions opening at one side to receive index signals, and having one portion formed with a plurality of signal display openings.

THOMAS B. CLARK.