Sept. 26, 1950 H. WESTON 2,523,347

FILING DEVICE

Original Filed Aug. 2, 1941

FIG. 1.

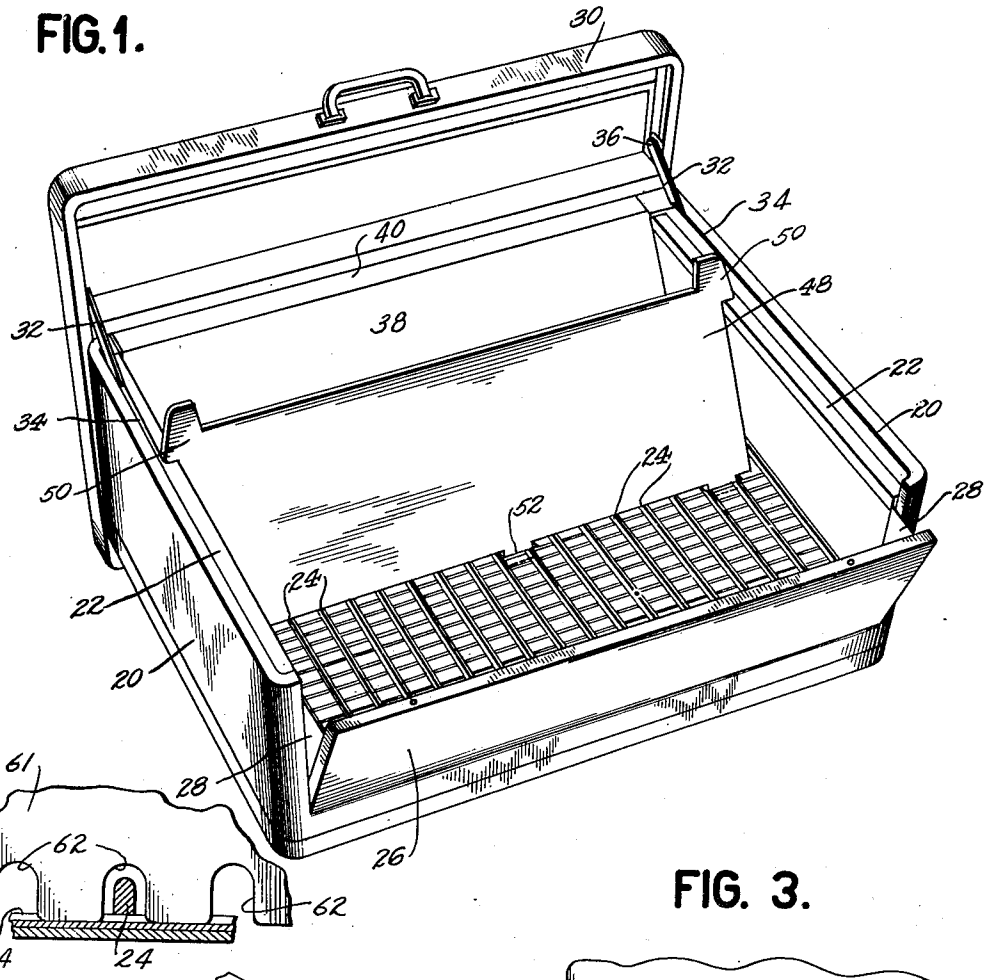


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

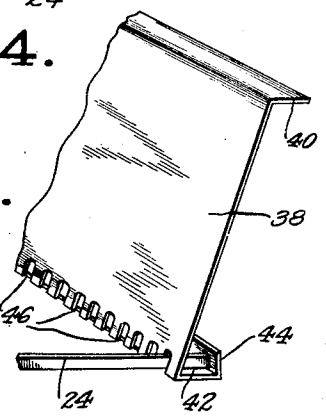
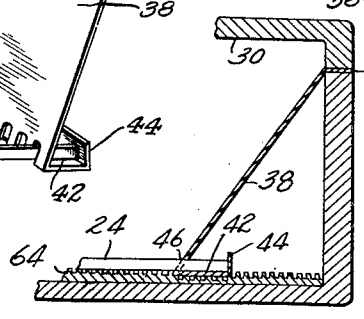


FIG. 2.



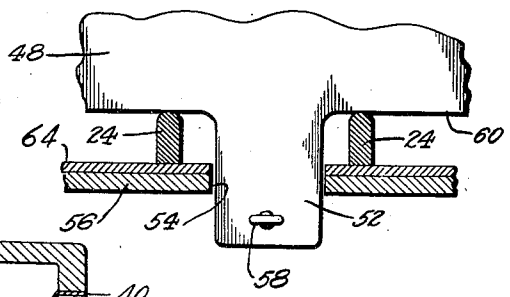


FIG. 2A.

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Patented Sept. 26, 1950

2,523,347

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,523,347

FILING DEVICE

Herbert Weston, New York, N. Y.; vested in the Attorney General of the United States

Original application August 2, 1941, Serial No. 405,130. Divided and this application August 17, 1944, Serial No. 549,880

2 Claims. (Cl. 129—16)

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This invention relates generally to card indexes or card registers of the kind in which the index cards or sheets have certain structural characteristics adapted to cooperate with portions of a container or holder for the cards to permit the positioning of the cards in relatively offset relation whereby portions of all such cards will be visible. More particularly, the invention relates to containers for the cards whereby such cards may be readily arranged and handled. Accounting and filing systems of this character are disclosed and claimed in United States patents to Bromfied No. 1,713,945, granted May 21, 1929; to Bosse, No. 1,975,566, granted October 2, 1934; and Bosse, 2,192,178, granted March 5, 1940.

It has been proposed to employ slotted or apertured cards cooperating with supporting or positioning ribs and the like whereby the cards may be offset either vertically or horizontally with respect to one another and in its simplest form, this arrangement involved slotting or perforating the cards or sheets along the lower edges thereof for horizontal offsetting as well as vertical offsetting. Furthermore, it has been proposed to cut away corner portions of the cards in graduated order to enable the exposed indicia on the successive cards to be more easily read.

Such cards have been contained within cabinets or drawers having inclined and adjustable back-rests to support banks of the cards, individual banks being separated by adjustable or readily movable partitions or dividers.

One object of the present invention is an improved cabinet adapted to contain a plurality of rows or groups of cards arranged in offset relation which is adapted to be made dust-proof and whereof the parts are so constructed and arranged that the greatest visibility is afforded the cards in the cabinet. In carrying this aspect of the invention into effect, the entire cover of the cabinet is, while hingedly mounted on the cabinet, capable of displacement so that the entire area of the cabinet is exposed to view while the front wall of the cabinet is displaceable outwardly to an inclined position to constitute a support for the foremost group or groups of index cards when the latter have been rocked forwardly to an out-of-the-way position to afford access to and expose the indicia on the particular card or cards being examined for the time being.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved surface on which the cards rest on the bottom of the cabinet or tray which will serve to position the cards and prevent them from slipping out of their rest positions when cards in front or in rear are removed.

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The invention also seeks constructions which are practical from the standpoint of ease and practicability of manufacture and convenience and durability in use.

These and other objects of the invention and the means for their attainment will be more apparent from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings illustrating various embodiments by which the invention may be realized and in which:

Figure 1 is a view in perspective showing a cabinet of this invention;

Figure 2 is a fragmentary view showing the inclined back rest at the rear end of the cabinet;

Fig. 2A is a detail sectional view showing the relation of the inclined back rest and the card positioning rods.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary view on an enlarged scale showing the manner of releasably securing the partitions in the bottom of the cabinet;

Figure 4 is a detailed view showing the relationship between the cabinet bottom, the card positioning bars, and the index cards.

Referring to Figures 1 through 4 for a general understanding of the invention, one form of cabinet to which the invention is applicable is illustrated in Figure 1 as comprised of side walls 20 provided on the inner sides thereof with ledges 22 and provided on its bottom surface with a number of longitudinally extending positioning bars 24 disposed in parallel relation and equally spaced across the bottom of the cabinet in parallel relationship to the walls 20. The front wall 26 of the cabinet is pivotally mounted or hinged at a point above the bottom thereof so that it may be swung outwardly at an angle, as viewed in Figure 1. Side members 28 carried by the hinged wall 26 are adapted to limit outward movement of the wall 26 and serve, in the position shown in Figure 1, as closures for the spaces at each side. A cover 30 for the cabinet is adapted to rest thereon and is held against displacement by arms 32 which slide in slots 34 and are pivotally connected at their lower ends at a point intermediate the front and back of the cabinet. The outer ends of the arms or links 32 are pivoted, as at 36, to the cover so that the cover may be pulled forward to rest down upon the walls and completely close the entire cabinet, when the wall 26 is in vertical position. At the rear of the cabinet, see also Figure 2, is an inclined member or back rest 38 illustrated as of sheet

metal having its upper end bent rearwardly to form a flange, as at 40, in a substantially horizontal plane and its lower end the metal plate is bent rearwardly, as at 42 and then upwardly as at 44. The lower edge of the body part 38 is formed with a plurality of notches 46 through which the positioning ribs or members 24 extend, the rear ends of said ribs being secured in position to the flanges or portions 42 and 44.

Sectional view 2A clearly illustrates the relationship of the cabinet 20, cover 30, corrugated cabinet bottom 64, card positioning bars 24, and back rest 38. The index cards 61 are omitted from this figure, but are adequately illustrated in Figure 4.

The inclined back rest 38 extends upwardly from the card positioning ribs 24 at a rearward incline, the flange 40 fitting over and resting upon the upper edge of the rear wall of the cabinet, as shown in Fig. 2, to space the rearmost group of cards 61 apart from the vertical inner face of the rear wall.

Hence, the rearmost group of cards will normally always tilt or rock rearwardly to lie against and be supported by, the back rest 38.

And, because of the fastening of the rear ends of the series of parallel positioning ribs 24 to the upper face of the rearwardly extending flange 42 at the lower advanced edge of the back rest, the extreme rear ends of the positioning ribs 42 being additionally secured to the vertical extension flange 44 of the back rest, such back rest cannot be forced out of its fixed rearwardly inclined position into a vertical position, even when the capacity of the card holding container or cabinet is over-crowded, since the lower rearwardly and upwardly extended flanges 42, 44 are fast with said parallel card positioning ribs and the rear edge of the upper flange 40, overlying the upper edge of the rear wall of the cabinet braces the back rest against rearward movement. Also the attachment of the back rest 38 to the ribs 24 prevents displacement of the back rest relatively to the ribs, and the contact of the upper rear flange 40 of the back rest against the upper edge of the rear wall of the cabinet prevents rearward movement of the positioning ribs 24. The back rest is not adjustable relatively to the ribs.

Any number of partitions 48 may be provided for the cabinet depending upon the number of main subdivisions into which the indexing cards are divided. As shown, the partitions 48 are preferably made of sheet material having outwardly extending ears 50 adapted to rest on and engage the ledges 22 when inclined either rearwardly or forwardly so that the partitions will form inclined supports for the cards. To retain the partitions in adjusted position, they are each provided with a plurality of ears 52 depending from and spaced apart along their lower edges, as shown in Figure 3, and in the illustrated embodiment, there are three such ears 52, which pass through slots 54 formed in the bottom 56 of the cabinet. The ears 52 extend sufficiently downwardly below the bottom wall 56 of the cabinet to permit a cotter pin or the like 58 to be passed therethrough to prevent removal of the partition while at the same time permitting it to be swung from the rearwardly inclined position illustrated in Figure 1 to a forwardly inclined position, as desired. As shown, the ears 52 are long enough so that the bottom edges 60 of the partitions 48 may rest upon the positioning bars 24.

To prevent the cards 61 from slipping forwardly as they might on the metal or other smooth surface, the bottom 56 of the cabinet is covered with a layer of corrugated material 64 (Figures 2A and 4). The bottom edge of each card 61 is notched as at 62 to receive the above-described parallel positioning bars or rods 24.

Various modifications will occur to those skilled in the art in the composition, configuration and disposition of the component elements going to make up the invention as a whole as well as the selection and combination of particular features to satisfy specific situations and no limitation is intended by the phraseology of the foregoing description or illustrations in the annexed drawings except as indicated in the appended claims.

This application is a division of my co-pending application Serial No. 405,130, filed August 2, 1941 now Patent No. 2,374,965 dated May 1, 1945.

What is claimed is:

1. In a card indexing mechanism, the combination with a rectangular cabinet having a bottom wall, vertical side and rear walls, a cover removably fitting on the upper edges of the walls, and card positioning rods arranged in parallelism on the bottom wall and extending longitudinally from front to rear of the cabinet to enable index cards notched along their bottom edges to be positioned in overlapping relation on, and retained where adjusted by, the parallel rods; of an inclined back rest located within the cabinet adjacent the vertical rear wall; a flange extending rearwardly from the upper edge of the inclined back rest to overlie the upper edge of the rear wall and be held between said upper edge of the rear wall and the cover when said cover is in closed position; and a flange extending rearwardly and then upwardly from the lower, advanced edge of the inclined back rest, the lower advanced edge of the back rest being notched to accommodate the parallel card positioning rods, the rear ends of which rods extend through the appropriate notches to overlie the lower rearwardly extending flange, and abut the upwardly extending flange, to prevent relative movement of the inclined back rest and the positioning rods.

2. In a card indexing mechanism, the combination with a rectangular cabinet having a bottom wall, vertical side and rear walls, a cover removably fitting on the upper edges of the walls, and card positioning rods arranged in parallelism on the bottom wall and extending longitudinally from front to rear of the cabinet to enable index cards notched along their bottom edges to be positioned in overlapping relation on, and retained where adjusted by, the parallel rods; of an inclined back rest located within the cabinet adjacent the vertical rear wall; a flange extending rearwardly from the upper edge of the inclined back rest to overlie the upper edge of the rear wall and be held between said upper edge of the rear wall and the cover when said cover is in closed position; and a flange extending rearwardly and then upwardly from the lower, advanced edge of the inclined back rest, the lower advanced edge of the back rest being notched to accommodate the parallel card positioning rods, the rear ends of which rods extend through the appropriate notches to overlie the lower rearwardly extending flange, and abut the upwardly extending flange, the rear ends of the positioning rods being secured to the upwardly

extending flange to prevent relative movement of the inclined back rest and the positioning rods.

HERBERT WESTON.

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