April 30, 1963 G. J. PROSEN 3,087,457

TELEPHONE INDEX

Filed March 3, 1961

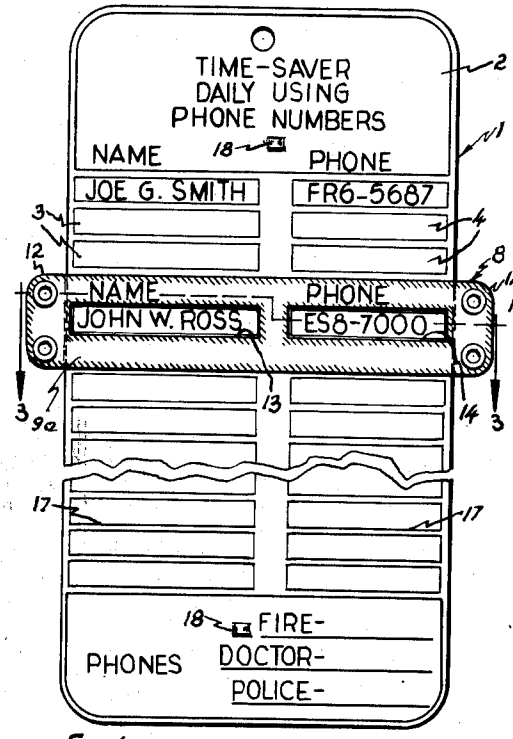


Fig. 1

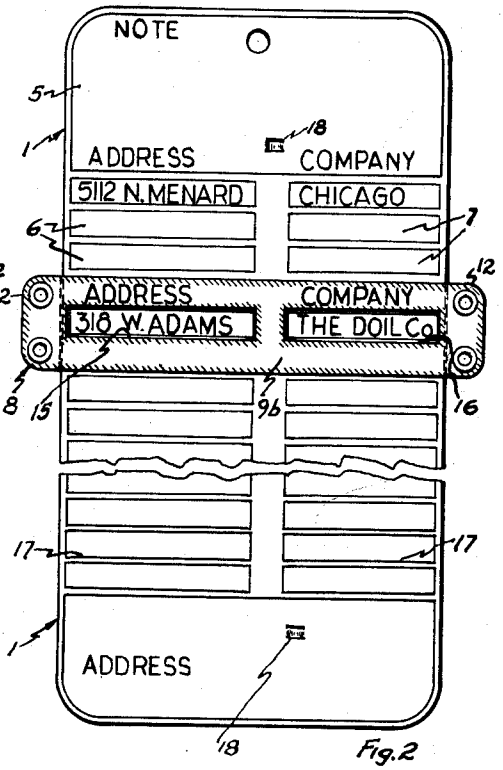


Fig. 2

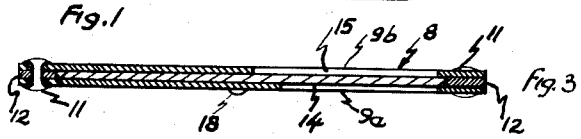


Fig. 3

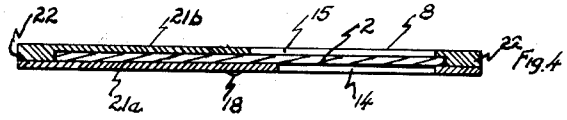


Fig. 4

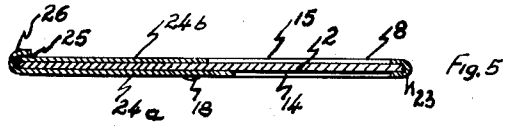


Fig. 5

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3,087,457

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The invention relates generally to data-retaining devices and more particularly to a device for retaining names, addresses, telephone numbers and the like.

The invention has among its objects the production of a data-retaining device which will retain a relatively large amount of information in a very small space, as for example, name, address, 'phone number, etc., and which is so designed that desired information may be readily segregated from other information on the device, at the same time providing an extremely simple construction which is inexpensive to manufacture and readily adapts itself as a premium item or the like.

Another object of the invention is the production of such a device which may be constructed entirely of plastic or other suitable material and may be so designed that it is reusable.

Many other objects and advantages of the invention herein shown and described will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the disclosure herein given.

In the drawings, wherein like reference characters indicate corresponding parts:

FIG. 1 is a front plan view of a device embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is a rear view of the device illustrated in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view similar to FIG. 3 of a modified form of slide; and

FIG. 5 is a sectional view similar to FIGS. 3 and 4 of still another modified form of slide construction.

The present invention contemplates the production of a data retention device in the form of a flat sheet of material which is provided with spaces on both sides for the receipt of the material to be retained, the device being provided with a slide element which may be readily moved along the sheet to designate the information sought, and when so positioned will correlate the material on both sides of the card in the event the reverse side of the device is employed for the reception of additional data pertaining to corresponding data on the opposite side thereof. The slide member is so proportioned and constructed that the desired material will stand out prominently to the exclusion of the undesired material.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to FIGS. 1 through 3, the reference numeral **1** indicates generally a card or plate formed from suitable sheet material, as for example, plastic or a plastic coated material, which is provided with a dull mat finish so that it may readily receive and carry information placed on the sheet in either pen or pencil.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated the top face of the sheet is provided with a plurality of indicia receiving spaces **3** and **4** arranged in vertical columns, the spaces **3** being adapted to receive the name of an individual, and the spaces **4** the corresponding telephone number thereof. In like manner, the opposite face **5** of the sheet **1** may be provided with spaces **6** and **7** similarly arranged in vertical columns which may contain addresses and other suitable information, as for example, the company by which the individual is employed. As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the faces of the sheet may also be provided with suitable legends and other information as well as suitable advertising material in the event the device is used as an advertising premium or the like.

Cooperable with the sheet **1** is a slide member, indicated generally by the numeral **8**, illustrated in FIGS. 1 through 3 as comprising two strips of material **9***a* and **9***b* which are secured together into an integral structure by suitable means such as a plurality of tubular rivets **11**, four of which are employed in the construction illustrated. As clearly illustrated in FIG. 3, the sheets **9***a* and **9***b* are adapted to be maintained in spaced relation by a pair of spacer members **12** adjacent opposite ends of the strips, the rivets **11** extending through the strips **12** and the end portions of the strips **9***a* and **9***b*. The strips **12** are of a thickness generally corresponding to the thickness of the sheet **1**, whereby the slide **8** is frictionally maintained in adjusted position on the sheet **1** but may be readily moved therealong, the distance between the inner edges of the strips **12** being slightly greater than the corresponding width of the sheet.

The member **9***a* is provided with openings **13** and **14** therein which generally correspond in size to the data receiving spaces **3** and **4**, whereby the slide may be positioned to dispose the openings **13** and **14** in registration with a corresponding pair of spaces **3** and **4**. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the vertical dimension of the member **9***a* is considerably greater than the corresponding dimension of one of the spaces **3** or **4**, that illustrated being approximately three times the height of a space whereby the data appearing in the window openings **13** and **14** is in effect isolated and prominently displayed to the exclusion of the adjacent data on the sheet. Preferably the slide **8** is made of a material having a color which will contrast with the light material of the sheet **1**, thereby emphasizing or accenting the segregating effect of the slide.

Strip **9***b* in like manner may be provided with window openings **15** and **16** aligned with the columns of spaces **6** and **7**. The rear side **5** of the sheet **1**, in the embodiment illustrated, is designed for the insertion of addresses and names of associated company of the persons listed on the opposite side of the sheet, so that when the slide is properly positioned to indicate a desired name, the openings **15** and **16** will be aligned with the spaces **6** and **7** containing the additional information with respect to the individual whose name is displayed on the front side of the sheet.

Thus in use, the spaces **3**, **4**, **15** and **16** of the device are properly filled in with the desired information and when information is sought with respect to an individual named on the sheet, the slide is merely moved to position the window opening **13** in a position to expose the desired name, whereupon the 'phone number will be visible in the window opening **14** and the additional information pertaining to such individual will be displayed in the window openings **15** and **16**.

As previously mentioned, the sheet **1** is preferably provided with plastic faces, the sheet either being made entirely of plastic or provided with a suitable plastic coating which will readily take the printing or other indicia placed upon the sheet, the latter preferably having suitable indicating means such as boxes **17** formed thereon to indicate the approximate area in which the desired information is to be placed so that it will be properly aligned with the window openings of the slide. The use of a mat finish on the surface of the sheet will permit the latter to be readily cleaned and information may be readily removed, as desired.

Suitable means may be provided to prevent undesired separation of the slide **8** from the sheet **1** which, in the embodiment illustrated, comprises a small stop **18** formed integrally from the sheet **1** by making two parallel slits in the sheet and deforming the portion of the sheet therebetween out of its normal plane and into the path of the slide.

FIGS. 4 and 5 illustrate modified forms of a slide construction.

The slide illustrated in FIG. 4 comprises a pair of members **21***a* and **21***b* corresponding to the strips **9***a* and **9***b*, the member **21***b* having end portions **22** to which the member **21***a* is suitably secured, as for example, by cementing or the like, whereby an integral structure is formed. The slide being provided with openings **13** to **16**, corresponding to those illustrated in the slide **8**.

FIG. 5 discloses a construction wherein the slide is formed from suitable sheet material bent back as indicated at **23** to form oppositely disposed walls **24***a* and **24***b* which may be provided with openings **13–16**, the free adjacent end portions **25** and **26** being suitably secured, as for example, by lapping and cementing or bonding of the overlying portions.

It will be apparent from the above description that I have provided a novel data retaining device which is exceedingly simple in construction, inexpensive to manufacture and very efficient for the purposes intended, the device being so constructed that selected data will be segregated from other material on the sheet and prominently displayed.

Having thus described my invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the disclosure herein given that various immaterial modifications may be made in the same without departing from the spirit of my invention; hence I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the exact form, construction, arrangement and combination of parts herein shown and described, or uses mentioned.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. An index structure comprising an elongated generally rectangularly shaped body member formed from flat relatively stiff sheet material, each face of said sheet having a plurality of columns of elongated data receiving spaces with said columns extending parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body member and said data receiving spaces extending transversely thereto, and a slide member having a front portion disposed at one side of said sheet and a rear portion disposed at the opposite side of the sheet with said portions being connected at their corresponding ends, said slide having a window therein for each column of the front face and each column of the rear face, each window being substantially the same size as one of the associated spaces, said slide being movable along said sheet to simultaneously position all of said windows in registery with selected spaces in each column of the front and rear faces, said slide having a dimension in the direction of said longitudinal axis which is at least equal to a multiple of the corresponding dimension of said spaces to segregate the selected spaces and make them appear prominent.

2. A structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said slide comprises a pair of strips of a length greater than the width of said sheet whereby the ends of said strips project outwardly beyond the side edges of the sheet, spacing means interposed between the projecting end portions of said strips, and fastening means extending through and rigidly connecting said strips and spacing means to form a unitary structure.

3. A structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said slide comprises a pair of members of a length greater than the width of said sheet whereby the ends of said strips project outwardly beyond the side edges of the sheet, and spacing elements at the projecting ends of said members, each element being integrally formed with an associated member and rigidly connected with the adjacent projecting portion of the other member to form a unitary structure.

4. A structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said slide comprises a strip of material which is folded to form a band transversely encircling the sheet, the free ends of said strip being overlapped and secured together to form a unitary structure.

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