April 24, 1951 H. B. SHEPARD 2,550,386

MEMORANDUM DEVICE

Filed Aug. 30, 1949

FIG. 1.

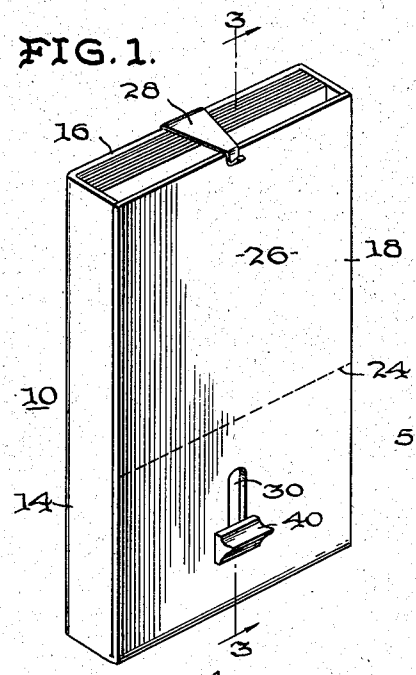


FIG. 3.

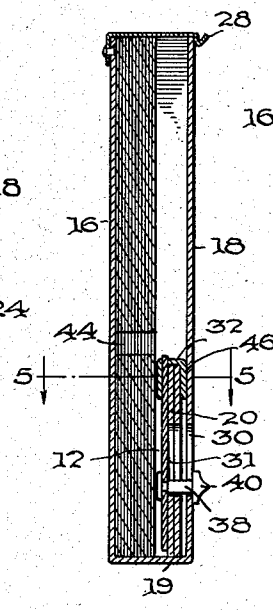


FIG. 4.

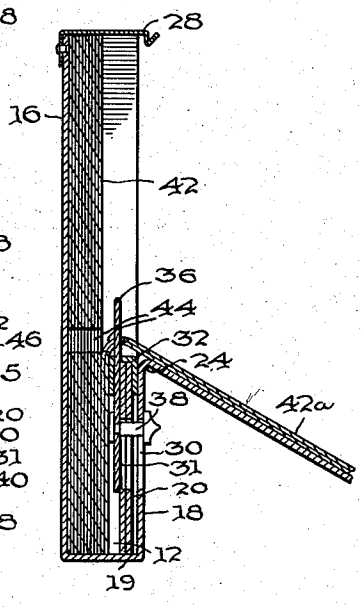


FIG. 2.

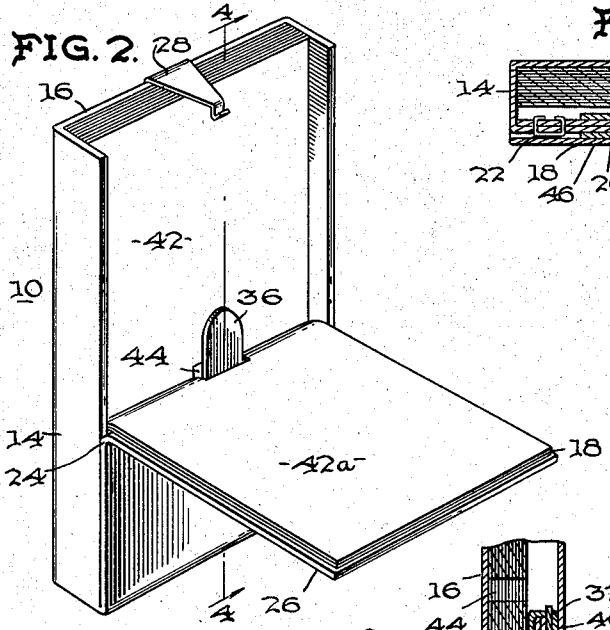


FIG. 5.

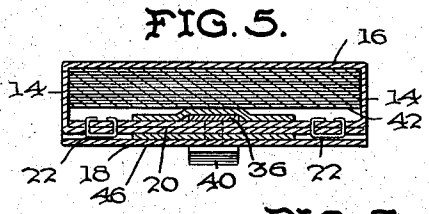


FIG. 7.

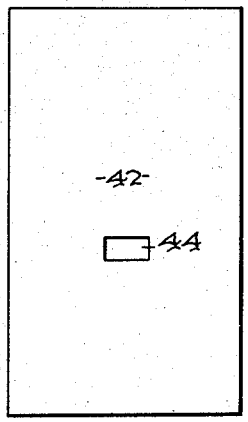
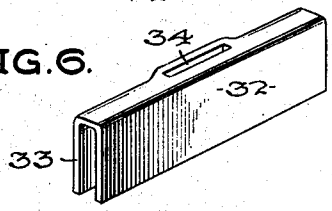


FIG. 6.



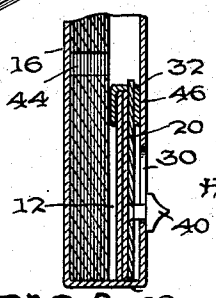


FIG. 8.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM DEVICE

Herman B. Shepard, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Application August 30, 1949, Serial No. 113,093

3 Claims. (Cl. 281—44)

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This invention relates to note books or memorandum devices of the loose leaf type and is an improvement in the invention of my earlier application Serial No. 96,306, filed May 31, 1949.

The principal object of this invention is to provide a loose leaf container having improved means to select and retain any particular sheet of note paper in a position either for taking notes or for quick reference thereto.

A salient feature of this invention is to provide a loose leaf container utilizing loose perforated paper leaves and a novel construction and arrangement of plunger or oscillating pin for indexing or selecting purposes similar to that disclosed in my copending application, but which is completely enclosed within the container for the sheets thereby enabling the plunger to separate certain data even when the cover flap is in the closed position.

Other novel features of improvement contributing to the efficiency of operation of the device either in taking notes or making reference thereto will be apparent and readily understood from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment and a modification thereof taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which

Fig. 1 is a front elevation in perspective illustrating the memorandum device in a closed position with the plunger contracted;

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the device in its open position with the plunger extended and separating certain of the sheets or cards from the selected one;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2 looking in the direction of the arrows and illustrating the manner in which the plunger separates the sheets;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3 looking in the direction of the arrows and showing details of the construction of the container or binder portions;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a top piece shown in section in Figs. 3, 4 and 5;

Fig. 7 is a view of one of the loose leaves or cards used in the memorandum device; and

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary sectional view similar to Fig. 3 but showing a modified form of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 10 generally indicates the improved loose leaf container or binder, which may be made of any suitable

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material such as metal, wood, plastic, fiberboard, cardboard, leather or the like.

The rectangular container 10 is formed with a lower pocket portion 12, side panels 14, back panel 16, front panel 18, and a bottom 19 joining said panels. In the preferred embodiment the side panels 14 are provided with extensions 20 which are folded and overlapped across the front forming the pocket 12. The extensions 20 are secured together by means of staples 22 as shown in Fig. 5.

The front panel 18 has a fold line or integral hinge 24 intermediate its length, and preferably below the center line, which forms a hinged cover flap 26. As shown best in Fig. 3 the overlapped extensions 20 terminate at approximately the same height as the fold line 24.

The cover flap 26 may be held in closed position by a spring clasp 28 or other means secured to the back 16. The portion of the front panel 18 below the hinge 24 is provided with an elongated vertical slot 30. The extension flaps 20 are similarly slotted at 31 (Fig. 3).

Secured to the upper portions of the extensions 20 is a small, U-shaped inverted top piece 32 which is provided with a slot 34 in its top portion. Under the rear portion 33 of the top piece 32 and through the slot 34 is arranged a slidably mounted plunger or bar 36. The plunger 36 includes a portion 38 which extends outwardly through the slots 30, 31 in the extension flaps 20 and the front panel 18, respectively. This portion 38 has formed thereon an elongated head or handle 40 of any convenient shape.

Loose paper sheets or thin cards 42, one of which is shown in Fig. 7, are adapted to fit in the container 10, and these sheets or cards are provided with perforated slots 44 of a size and configuration to receive the plunger 36. The slots are preferably centered with respect to the sides of the paper.

When a number of these paper sheets or cards 42 are placed in the pocket portion 12 the slots 44 will be just above the top of the flap extensions 20 and in alignment with the top of the plunger 36 in its retracted position.

In describing the operation of the device, it will be assumed that the plunger or bar 36 is in the position shown in Figs. 2 and 4 with the cover flap opened. In this position the plunger extends through the slots 44 of the forward sheets 42a and separates them from the one selected for exposure or removal. If desired, the plunger 36 may be left in this position and the cover 26 closed so that when the cover is again

opened the selected sheet will be immediately available. However, the plunger 36 may also be retracted by means of the handle 40 so that all of the sheets are free, as best shown by Figs. 1 and 3. The container slots 30 and 31 and the slot 34 in the top piece 32 guide the plunger for straight line motion.

A modification of the plunger mounting is illustrated in Fig. 8. In this form the plunger 36 may, if desired, be mounted on the front portion of the extension flaps 20 and in this modification the slots 31 will of course be eliminated. While it is not necessary, it is desirable that in both forms of the invention the forward portion of the piece 32 be cemented or otherwise secured to the inner side of front panel 18 at 46.

It will be readily apparent from the above description that the memorandum device may be put to a large number of desired uses. For example, it may contain notes to be used when making a public address, the plunger 36 acting to hold the book open to any desired sheet. When used for taking notes it has a decided advantage over known books or devices in that each sheet may be used to cover one particular subject, so that at a later time when additional information becomes available the sheets may be easily removed, re-arranged and placed back in the book in any desired order without having to tear or release the sheets from cumbersome securing devices. It is a simple matter to retract the plunger 36, turn down the pages not to be used, and push the plunger through slots 44 to maintain a plurality of sheets 42*a* separate. As stated, the plunger may be left in this position when the cover or front panel 18 is closed to act as an index or place marker.

It is to be understood that the memorandum device of this invention may be made in any desired size, depending on the particular use. For example, it may be made small enough to fit in the pocket when used as a memorandum pad or address book, or larger for lecture and classroom use.

For even greater convenience and utility the sheets 42 may be made of different colors, such as red, blue or yellow, the red sheets used exclusively for appointments, blue for general data, and yellow for lecture notes, etc.

Since other equivalent modifications and variations in detail will be prompted by the disclosure which has been made, the present invention is to be limited only to the scope and spirit of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as novel and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A loose leaf device comprising a rectangular container including front, rear and side panels and a bottom connecting all of said panels, said front and rear panels each being considerably wider than said side panels, and said front panel being formed with a transverse hinge and an elongated upright slot through said front panel and below said hinge, and a sliding plunger mounted behind the front panel for movement from below to above the hinge, said plunger including an operating portion extending outwardly through the upright slot.

2. A notebook comprising in combination a pocket portion, front, rear and side panels extending well above said pocket portion, said front panel being transversely hinged and provided with an elongated vertical slot through said panel and below its hinged portion, paper sheets or cards of a size and configuration to fit into said pocket portion and extend upwardly between said front, rear and side panels, said paper sheets or cards having transverse perforated slots aligned with the front panel hinge line, and means including a plunger slidably secured inwardly of the front panel and having a portion extending through said vertical slot in said front panel for movement of said plunger through and out of the aligned perforated slots of the paper sheets or cards to separate any number of said sheets or cards.

3. A notebook device for holding loose paper sheets or cards, comprising a rectangular container having front, side and rear panels and a bottom connecting all of said panels, said front and rear panels each being considerably wider than said side panels, said front panel having a transverse fold line a substantial distance below the center line and an elongated vertical slot through said front panel and below said fold, extension flaps integral with said side panels and extending transversely in overlapped relation across the container adjacent the front panel, said extension flaps terminating at approximately the same height as the fold line of said front panel, and means comprising a plunger slidably secured to said extension flaps and including a portion adapted to extend through the vertical slot in said front panel to manipulate said plunger.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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