C. J. BRYANT.

INDEX.

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Fig. 1.

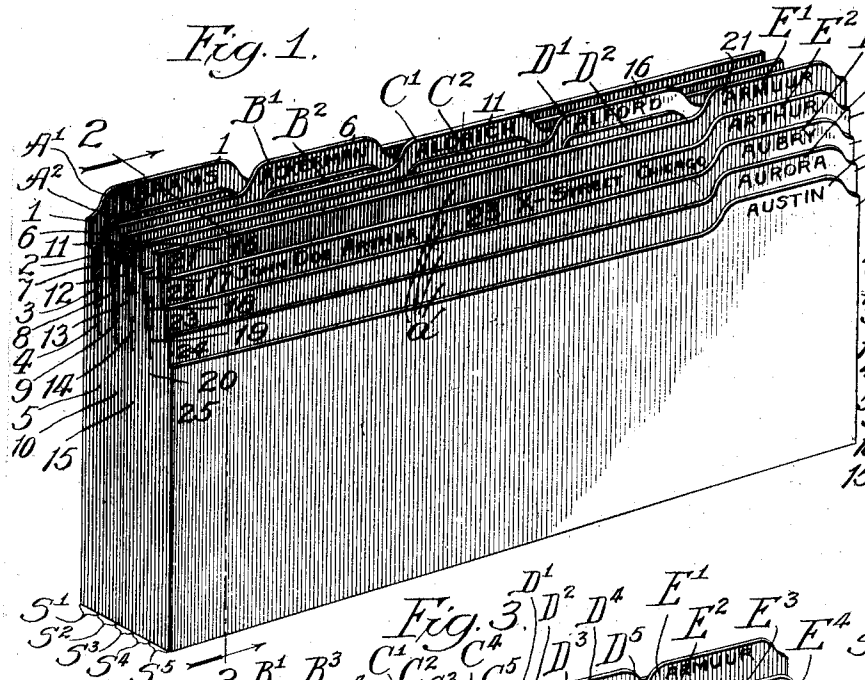


Fig. 2.

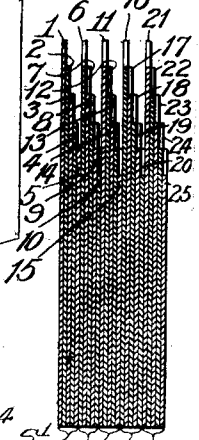


Fig. 3.

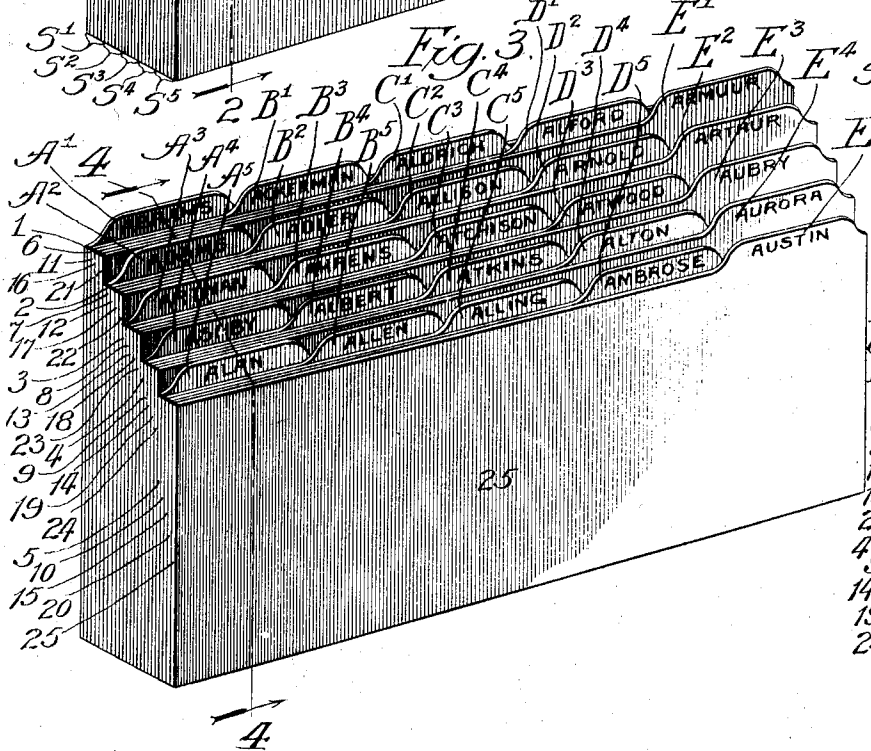
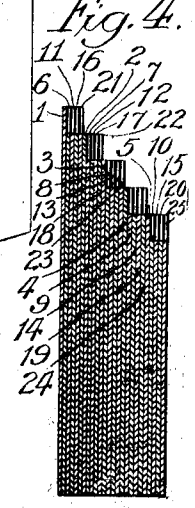


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INDEX.

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Application filed May 28, 1908. Serial No. 435,421.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLYDE J. BRYANT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Indexes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates particularly to card indexes, although the invention is not limited thereto.

My primary object is to provide improved means for facilitating reference to memoranda or entries, by rendering it possible for one to see at a glance the location of the sheet or card which is sought.

A further object is to provide for the display of memoranda to which frequent reference is likely in a conspicuous location, thus rendering it unnecessary, in very many instances, to remove or expose the entire card or sheet.

The invention is shown embodied in a card-index in the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 represents by a perspective view, a card-index embodying my invention, arranged as most commonly employed; Fig. 2, a section taken as indicated at line 2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a perspective view showing a different arrangement of the cards shown in Figs. 1 and 2; and Fig. 4, a section taken as indicated at line 4 of Fig. 3.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, I provide a plurality of similar series S^1, S^2, S^3, S^4 and S^5 of cards, or sheets, the several series corresponding, in this instance, to the alphabetical grouping of cards according to second vowels of the names on the tabs of the cards. The cards of the series are numbered, respectively, for reference purposes in this specification, 1 to 5 inclusive, 6 to 10 inclusive, 11 to 15 inclusive, 16 to 20 inclusive and 21 to 25 inclusive. The cards of each series are of successively reduced height counting from rear to front; and the corresponding cards of all series are of the same height. Thus, cards 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21 are of the same height; cards 2, 7, 12, 17 and 22 are of one height, but shorter than the cards 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21; etc. The cards have lower edges adapted to rest in the same plane on the bottom of a card-box, or cabinet; and the cards of each series have their upper edges provided with tabs adapted to stand successively in front and slightly below each other, the tabs of the S^1 series being near the left end of the pack, the tabs of the S^2 series being a little farther to the right and so on. In other words, the tabs of each series bear a stepped relation to each other, and the tabs of the several series are staggered with relation to each other. The tabs of the S^1 series of cards are designated A^1 to A^5 inclusive; those of the S^2 series, B^1 to B^5 inclusive; those of the S^3 series, C^1 to C^5 inclusive; those of the S^4 series, D^1 to D^5 inclusive; and those of the S^5 series, E^1 to E^5 inclusive. The cards of each series, being of successively reduced height, present at their top margins exposed spaces *a*, which may serve to receive a complete address. Thus the card 22 is shown provided at the space *a* with the address "John Doe Arthur, 23 X street, Chicago." As has been indicated the cards are arranged according to the second vowel of the names appearing on the tabs, as will be understood from Fig. 1, and, also, from Fig. 3, where the arrangement is the same in this respect.

In Fig. 1, the tabs and upper margins of all the cards of each series are exposed to view when the series is viewed separately. According to the arrangement shown in Figs. 3 and 4, however, the tabs of all the cards of all the series are exposed to view when the pack of cards is viewed as a whole, but the upper margins *a* of the cards are hidden. The arrangement shown in Fig. 3 is reached by grouping the cards shown in Fig. 1 according to size, all cards of the largest size being placed in the rearmost group, the next smaller in the next group, and so on. From the description given, it is evident that any desired card may be located at a glance in either arrangement shown, and, also, that in the arrangement shown in Fig. 1, the upper margins of the cards of each series, when the series is separately viewed, are exposed to view.

It may be added that the cards, or sheets rise from a common base to different heights, as explained. Where the cards, or sheets, are contained in a case, they rise from the flat bottom of the case, or from the rods of the file, as the case may be; and where they are bound in a book, whether of loose-leaf type, or otherwise, as in a ledger, for instance, they extend from the back of the book different distances, as will be evident.

The gist of the invention lies in providing a

plurality of similar series of sheets, or cards, equipped with substantially uniformly narrow index-tabs, each series composed of a plurality of sheets of successively reduced height with the index-tabs thereof bearing a staggered relation, the sheets lying one behind the other in succession; and preferably in the use of loose sheets of the character indicated and comprising said plurality of series, whereby either the arrangement shown in Fig. 1 or that shown in Fig. 2 may be had.

The foregoing detailed description has been given for clearness of understanding only, and no undue limitation should be understood therefrom, as I desire to claim the invention where applicable.

What I regard as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In means of the character set forth, the combination of a plurality of similar series of loose index-sheets equipped with index-tabs, the index sheets of each series being of successively reduced height and the index-tabs thereof substantially uniformly narrow and located substantially the same distance from the ends of the sheets, the tabs of the several series bearing a staggered relation to each other, for the purpose set forth.

2. In means of the character set forth, the combination of a plurality of similar series of index-sheets equipped with index-tabs said series arranged in succession, one behind the other, the index-sheets of each series being of successively reduced height, the tabs of each series bearing a stepped relation to each other and a staggered relation to the tabs of the remaining series.

3. The combination of a plurality of similar series of index-cards equipped with index-tabs, the index-cards of each series being side-by-side with their index-tabs and also their upper edges bearing a stepped relation to each other, whereby the upper margins of the cards of each series are exposed when the series is viewed by itself, the tabs of the several series being staggered with relation to each other, for the purpose set forth.

CLYDE J. BRYANT.

In presence of—
RALPH SCHAEFER,
CHAS. E. GAYLORD.