

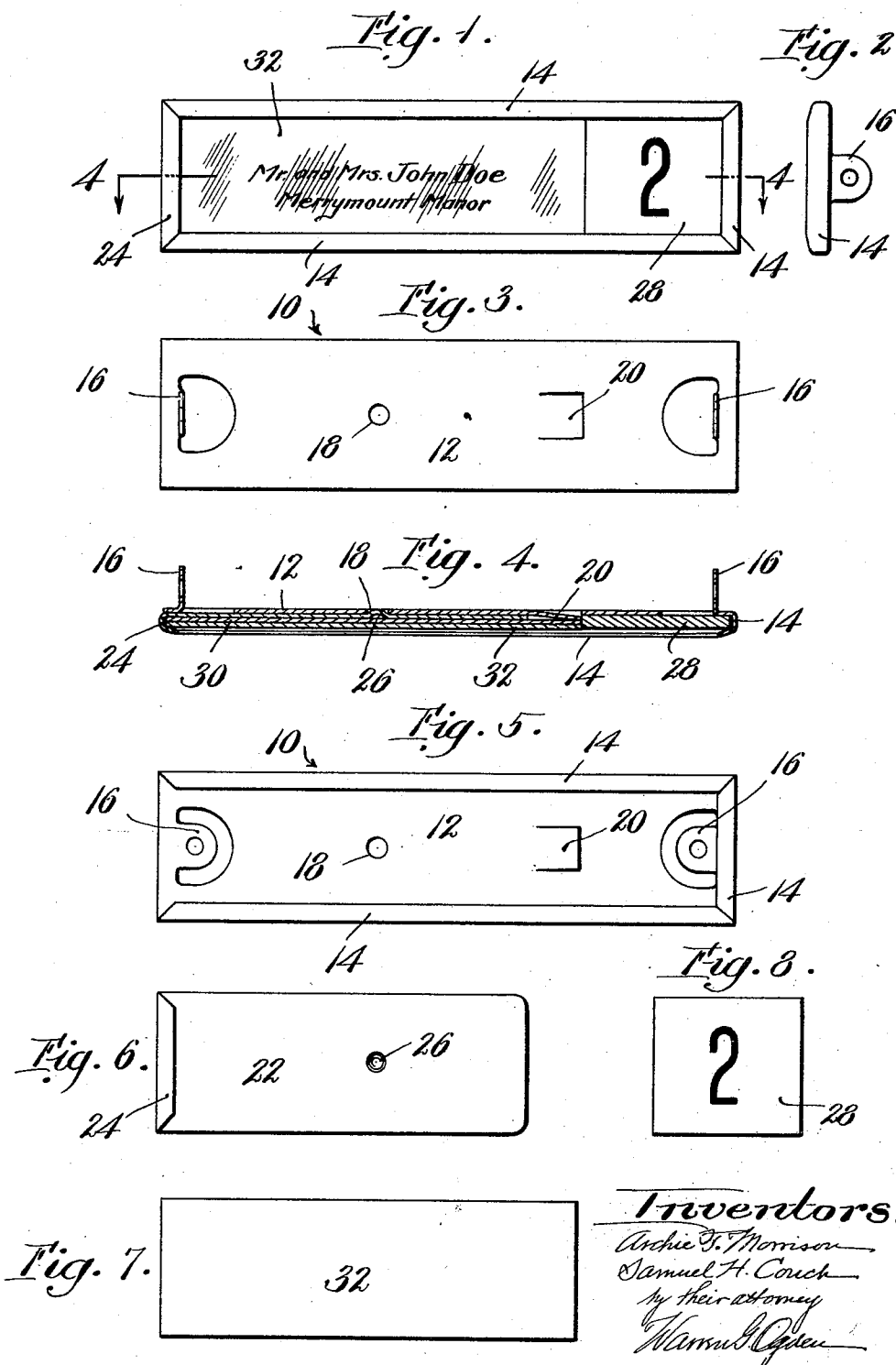
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INDICATOR HOLDER

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INDICATOR HOLDER

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This invention relates to indicator holders especially useful in call systems. A specific example is a telephone call system for apartment houses where a number of the holders are mounted in columns on a supporting panel.

The panel, on which such indicator holders are to be mounted, has a flush surface and the holders themselves are purposely manufactured from thin material, conveniently sheet metal of narrow gauge, in order to lie as closely as possible against the panel and enhance its appearance. Furthermore the holders in each column are closely spaced to conserve material and wall space. These considerations have made it difficult, with the type of indicator holder heretofore generally in use, to remove the name card and substitute another as frequently is necessary.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of indicator holders in a manner to overcome these difficulties, retaining the advantage referred to, while yet permitting the desired close columnar spacing on a flush surface.

To the accomplishment of this object the invention comprises the novel construction and combination of parts for indicator holders hereinafter described and then particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing, illustrating the preferred form of the invention,

Figure 1 is a front view of the holder, filled with an address card and apartment number, as it will appear in use on the supporting panel;

Fig. 2 is an end view of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a rear view of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a view, in longitudinal section, on the line 4-4 of Fig. 1 showing how the inserts are secured in the frame of the holder;

Fig. 5 is a front view of an unfilled frame;

Fig. 6 is a front view of the address card slide;

Fig. 7 illustrates the proportions of the address card and of its transparent protecting cover; and

Fig. 8 illustrates an apartment number block.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated by the drawing, the frame 10 (Figs. 3 and 5) of the holder comprises preferably, but not necessarily, a metal stamping composed of an elongated back plate 12 bordered or framed by flanges 14 at top, bottom and one end, the edges of which are intumed over the margin of the back plate. The whole forms, in effect, a slot open at one end. Semi-circular slots are cut at each end of the back plate (see Fig. 5) forming securing lugs 16 preferably perforated as shown best in Fig. 2. The back plate is also provided with a hole 18 nearer to its open end and a tongue 20 nearer to its flanged end. The tongue points toward the flanged end and is sprung forward slightly (see Fig. 4). It will be observed that these stampings leave the back of the frame perfectly smooth so that it can seat flush against the surface of a panel.

The frame may be secured to a panel by bending the lugs 16 backward to the position shown in Fig. 4, then passing them through spaced slots in the panel and finally clenching them against the rear face of the panel. The perforated lugs permit securement to an unslotted panel by means of fasteners entering the panel through the perforations without bending the lugs out of the plane of the back plate 12. A renewal or addition may be made on a slotted panel in the same manner. Thus the panel may be supplied with the requisite number of frames either before or after it is mounted on the wall.

A slide 22 (Fig. 6) for insertion in a frame 10, preferably of the same material as the frame and conveniently a stamping, is provided with an end flange 24 shaped to match the frame flanges 14 and with a boss 26 on its back (see Fig. 4) spaced from its flanged end the distance that the hole 18 is spaced from the unflanged end of the frame. It will be observed that the length of the slide 22 is such that it does not extend beyond the tongue 20 when assembled with frame as shown by Fig. 4.

The frame 10 is filled with its two indicators, one for the apartment number and one

for the address in the following manner. A number block 28 (Fig. 8), of substantially the thickness of the height of the flanges 14 and proportioned to fill the space beyond the end of the tongue 20, is slipped into the open end of the frame and forced past the tongue, which yields to permit this, to its position at the end of the frame as shown in Fig. 1. An address card 30 with a transparent cover 32 against its face are assembled with the slide 22 by seating against its flange 24 and these three parts are forced, as one, into the open end of the frame until the flange 24 joins with the flanges 14 thus completing the peripheral frame. In this position the boss 26 snaps into the back plate hole 18 to secure the slide in place by means of a slip-lock permitting removal and replacement whenever desired.

The forwardly bent tongue 20 serves as a retaining stop (see Fig. 4) to prevent displacement of the number block whenever the slide 22 is withdrawn, but by springing the tongue rearward the number block may be removed and another substituted therefor, if required.

The reason for making the slide 22 shorter than the address card, which fills the entire space between the number block and the slide flange 24, will now be apparent. The slide stops short of the tongue 20 so as not, by continual contact, to force it back into the plane of the back plate 12 and destroy its usefulness as a retaining stop.

An indicator holder constructed as above described having provision for placing and removing the inserts through an open end of its frame, rather than through a slot along the top as has heretofore generally been the construction of these articles, permits a close spacing of the holders in columns, or even contact if deemed desirable, without sacrifice of the important feature of free and instantaneous removal and replacement of the indicators displayed. The construction also provides for a number block, which ordinarily remains permanently in the holder, made of harder and more lasting material than the paper-stock cards heretofore in use. The number blocks 28 preferably are of metal with the number cut or stamped therein ensuring a permanency unobtainable from a printed card. Replacement of number blocks at frequent intervals because so worn as to have become indiscernible is wholly overcome by using the indicator holder of this invention. The construction has the further advantage of presenting an apparently permanently enclosed address card thus defeating tampering which may easily occur when the card is merely slipped into the holder through an open slot. The provision of the closed frame assists in keeping the address card free from the dust and dirt that would enter through an open entrance slot.

Obviously, by a slight redesign within the skill of the artisan, the holder may be used for displaying merely the name plate or card, or for displaying other indicators in addition to or in substitution of the indicators illustrated and described herein.

The nature and scope of the invention having been indicated and its preferred embodiment having been specifically described, what is claimed as new, is:—

1. An indicator holder comprising a frame having an overhanging flange at three sides adapted to receive at least two indicators, a removable slide for entering the unflanged side having an overhanging end flange for completing said frame flange and adapted to receive and support one of said indicators, and means for retaining the other indicator in place when the slide is withdrawn.

2. An indicator holder comprising an elongated frame plate having an inturned flange at both sides and one end, a projecting tongue struck up from said plate near its flanged end, a slide for entering beneath said side flanges having a length not greater than the distance from the unflanged end of said plate to said tongue, and an inturned flange on one end of said slide for completing the flange about said frame plate.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

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