C. E. FLANDERS.

INDEX CABINET.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 18, 1908.

903,368. **Patented Nov. 10, 1908.**

FIG. 1

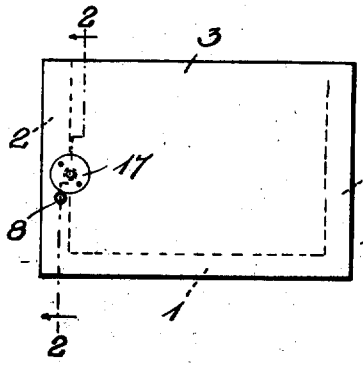


FIG. 3

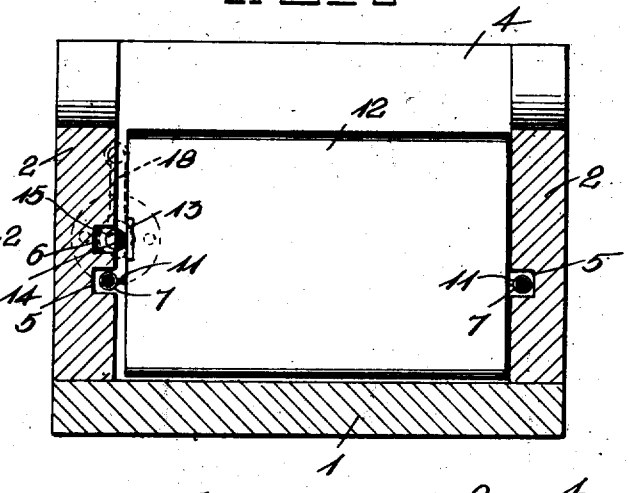


FIG. 2

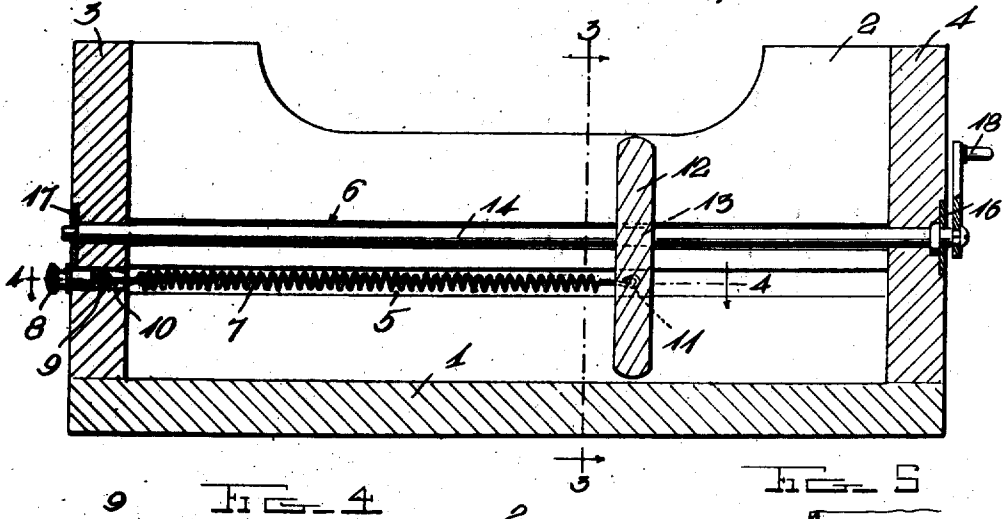


FIG. 4

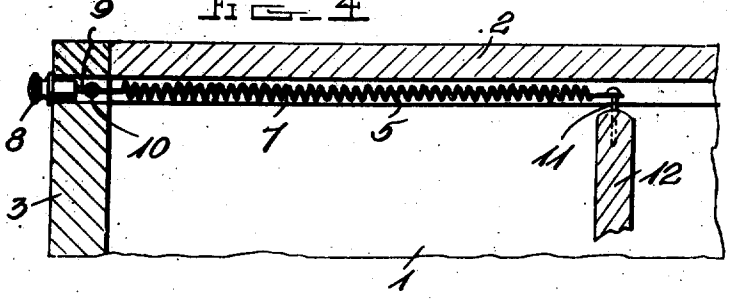
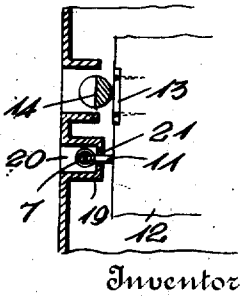


FIG. 5



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INDEX-CABINET.

No. 903,368. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 10, 1908.

Application filed June 18, 1908. Serial No. 439,181.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES ELMER FLANDERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at West Brookfield, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Index-Cabinets; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to index cabinets, and particularly to the card drawers or boxes which are used therein.

The object of the invention is the provision of a box of this character which may be cheaply constructed, which will be efficient and will enable rapid manipulation of the parts and selection of the cards.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a novel follower and a novel locking device therefor.

A still further object of the invention is the provision of means for holding the follower normally tight against the cards and for permitting the follower to be turned at any desired angle, and to dispense with guide rods carried by the bottom of the box, and with follower locks carried upon the follower. These latter devices consume considerable room which might be otherwise utilized, and most of them are extremely inefficient and hard to operate. With my invention all of these bad features are obviated.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts, as will be more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation, Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, Fig. 4 is a horizontal section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 is a detail vertical sectional view of a modification.

Referring more especially to the drawings, 1 represents the bottom of the box, 2 the side pieces thereof and 3 and 4 the front and rear end pieces. As shown this box is constructed of wood with its inside portions grooved at 5, and the left hand side at 6. It will, however, be understood that the box may be constructed of any suitable material such as brass, sheet-steel or the like with the grooves formed therein. Seated in the grooves 5 on either side of the box are the resilient members 7, here shown in the form of spiral springs, which have connected to their outer ends the retaining buttons 8, having loops upon their inner ends 9 to engage loops 10, formed upon the spring. The inner ends of the springs 7 are connected to the hooks 11, carried upon either side of the follower 12. This follower closely fits between the sides 2 and if of wood may have a bearing plate 13, formed on its left hand end to receive the thrust of the locking cam 14. This cam 14 is seated in the groove 6 with its flat face 15 approximately flush with the left hand side 2. Its ends are passed through the end pieces 3 and 4 and are journaled in plates 16 and 17. The latter plate being positioned upon the front end 3, and the former positioned upon the end 4 of the box. The end of the shaft of the cam which projects through the bearing plate 16 is provided with a squared end upon which the operating handle 18 is secured.

It will be understood that while I have illustrated a certain form of cam that any other form may be provided which will accomplish the desired purpose, and I also do not wish to be limited to the spring shown herein, as any other form of resilient connection between the follower and the front end piece may be employed with success. Also the device may be constructed of sheet-metal with an inwardly extending rib 19, forming a groove 20, on the outer side, the rib being slotted at 21 to receive the hooks of the follower 12.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction and operation of the invention will be readily understood without requiring a more extended explanation.

Various changes in the form, proportion and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. In a card index box, a follower, a pair of resilient members connected to said follower for normally holding it against the

cards in the box, and means journaled in the ends of the box for holding the follower in any adjusted position.

2. In a card index box, a follower, a pair of resilient members connected thereto for normally holding said follower against the cards in the box, and a lock carried by the box adapted to hold said follower in any adjusted position.

3. In a card index box, a follower adapted for free longitudinal and angular movement within the box, a pair of resilient members connected to the box and to the follower for normally holding the latter in engagement with the cards in the box, a cam journaled in a groove in said box and normally permitting said follower to travel freely under the influence of the resilient members, and means to operate said cam whereby the follower may be locked in any adjusted position within the box.

4. In a card index box having a plurality of grooves formed therein, resilient members mounted in certain of said grooves, a follower connected to said resilient members to be normally forced toward the front end of the box to keep itself in engagement with the cards therein, a cam journaled in the ends of said box and lying in one of the grooves in said box, and means for operating the cam.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES ELMER FLANDERS.

Witnesses:
ROBERT WALKER,
SADIE M. EATON.