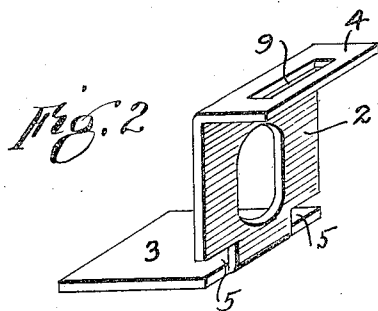
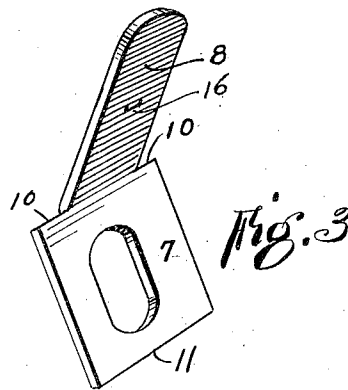


1,438,385.



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 FILE FOLLOWER.
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1,438,385.

Patented Dec. 12, 1922.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

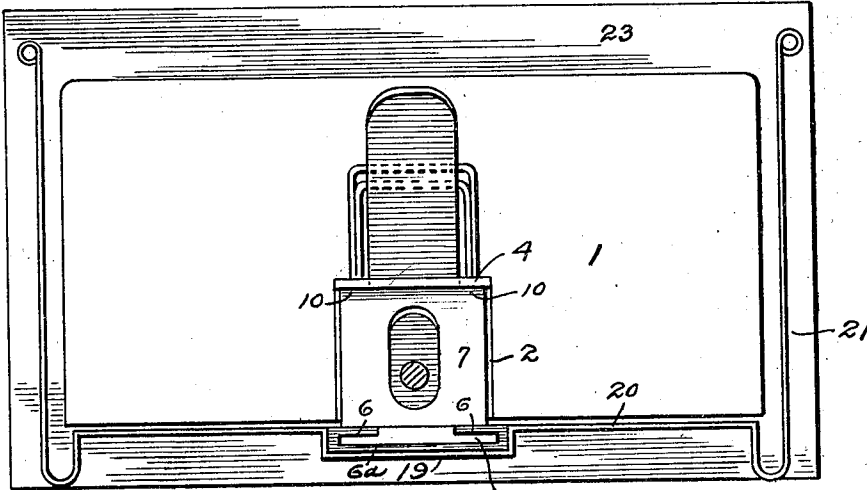


Fig. 4

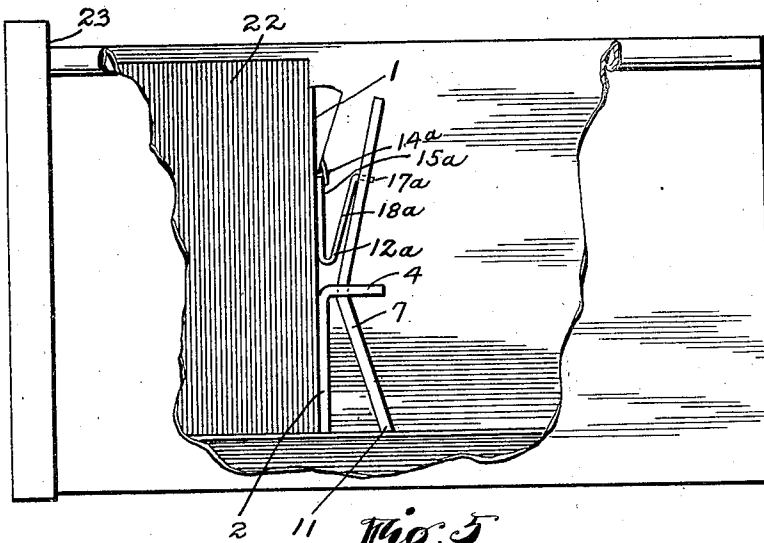


Fig. 5

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD G. LEHMAN, OF CANTON, OHIO, ASSIGNOR, BY MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO
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NEW YORK.

FILE FOLLOWER.

Application filed September 12, 1918. Serial No. 253,692.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD G. LEHMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Canton, in the county of Stark and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in File Followers, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to a follower plate used in filing drawers for holding cards and papers in vertical position against the front wall of the drawer; and the object of the invention is to provide a follower of few parts and simple construction which will automatically lock itself in any position, and may be released by a slight pressure of the thumb and finger.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming part hereof in which—

Figure 1 is an isometric perspective view of the follower plate and guideway detached from a drawer;

Fig. 2, a detached perspective view of the saddle;

Fig. 3, a detached perspective view of the locking lever;

Fig. 4, a cross section of a drawer showing the follower in rear elevation; and

Fig. 5, a side elevation of a drawer with the side broken away to show the follower in side elevation, with a modified form of spring.

Similar numerals refer to similar parts throughout the drawings.

The follower plate 1 is rigidly secured, as by spot-welding, to the forward face of the upright plate 2 of the saddle shown in Fig. 2, the lower end of which saddle plate is flanged forward to form the guide plate 3, and the upper end thereof is flanged rearward to form the bearing plate 4.

The lower end of the saddle plate 2 is provided with the notches 5 along the upper side of the guide plate 3, which notches are adapted to receive the inturned flanges 6 on the sides of the channel guide 6^a for engaging the guide plate in the guideway formed by the channel in which the guide plate is adapted to slide longitudinally.

The locking lever, comprising the plate 7 and the operating tongue 8, is fulcrumed to the bearing plate 4 by passing the tongue upward through the slot 9 therein until the shoulders 10 at the upper end of the locking plate abuts the lower side of the bearing

plate, whence the locking plate extends downward and rearward with its lower end 11 normally resting upon the flanges 6 of the channel guide 6^a.

The tongue 8 normally extends upward and forward from the bearing plate 4 and is normally pressed rearward by action of a spring 12 or 12^a, which causes the lower edge 11 of the locking plate to bite into the flanges of the channel guide for locking the follower plate and its guide plate against rearward movement along the guideway. When, however, the locking tongue 8 is pressed forward, as by applying the thumb to the forward side of the follower plate and a finger to the rear side of the locking tongue, the locking plate is swung rearward so as to disengage its lower edge 11 from the flanges 6 of the channel guide; whereupon the follower plate may be moved freely rearward by a sliding of its guide-plate in the guideway, to be locked again in a desired position by releasing the pressure of the finger upon the locking tongue.

The central depression 13, made by pressing the upper edge of the follower plate rearward, forms a recess for receiving the thumb in the operation of the follower plate; and at the lower end of this depression, the lip 14 is struck rearward from the body of the follower plate for engaging with the upper end of the forward arm 15 or leaf 15^a of the spring.

An aperture 16 is preferably provided in the locking tongue 8, in which the fingers 17 or 17^a at the upper end of the rear arm 18 or leaf 18^a of the spring may be engaged for holding the parts in position; and it is evident that a U-shaped wire spring 12 having coils at each side of the locking tongue may be employed, or a U-shaped leaf spring 12^a of narrower width than the locking tongue 8 may be used, without varying the principle or mode of operation of the locking devices.

It is not intended to limit the scope of the invention to the particular style of guide or guideway for the lower end of the follower plate, nor to the particular style of locking lever illustrated and described herein; but the plate form of guide and lever and the flange channel form of guideway have been found to be very desirable for the purpose intended.

The channel plate forming the guideway is preferably located in the longitudinal

channel 19 formed in the bottom 20 of the drawer 21, and the follower plate may be located in the vertical position shown in Fig. 5 for holding the cards or papers 22 uprightly in a square pack against the forward wall 23 of the drawer; but the present invention is not limited to these particular features of arrangement and construction.

I claim:

10 1. A follower plate having a guide extending forward from its lower edge and a bearing with an aperture therein extending rearward from its rear side, a locking lever fulcrumed on the under side of the bearing and having an operating tongue extending upward through the aperture therein, and a guideway for the guide normally engaged by the locking lever.

20 2. A follower plate having a guide extending forward from its lower edge and a bearing with an aperture therein extending rearward from its rear side, a locking lever fulcrumed on the under side of the bearing and having an operating tongue extending upward through the aperture therein, a guideway for the guide normally engaged by the locking lever, and yielding means normally holding the lever against the guideway.

30 3. A follower plate having a guide extending forward from its lower edge and a bearing with an aperture therein extending rearward from its rear side, a locking lever fulcrumed on the under side of the bearing and

having an operating tongue extending upward through the aperture therein, a guide- 35 way for the guide normally engaged by the locking lever, and a U-spring between the follower plate and the lever tongue having its arms engaged therewith.

4. A follower plate having a guide flange 40 extending forward from its lower edge and a bearing flange with an aperture therein extending rearward from its rear side, a locking plate extending downward and rearward from the bearing plate and having an 45 operating tongue extending upward and rearward through the slot therein with shoulders bearing against the bottom of the plate, and a guideway for the guide flange upon which the lower edge of the locking plate normally 50 rests.

5. A follower plate having a guide flange extending forward from its lower edge and a bearing flange with an aperture therein extending rearward from its rear side, a lock- 55 ing plate extending downward and rearward from the bearing plate and having an operating tongue extending upward and rearward through the slot therein with shoulders bearing against the bottom of the plate, a 60 guideway for the guide flange upon which the lower edge of the locking plate normally rests and means normally holding the locking plate against the guideway.

EDWARD G. LEHMAN.