May 16, 1961 U. S. RICHARDS 2,984,205

AUTOMATIC BOOKMARK

Filed May 28, 1959

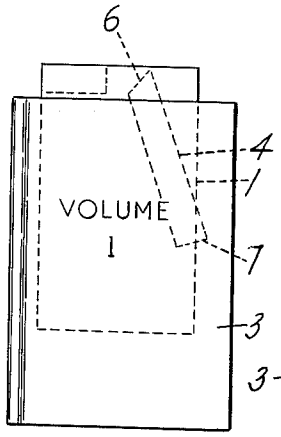


Fig. 1

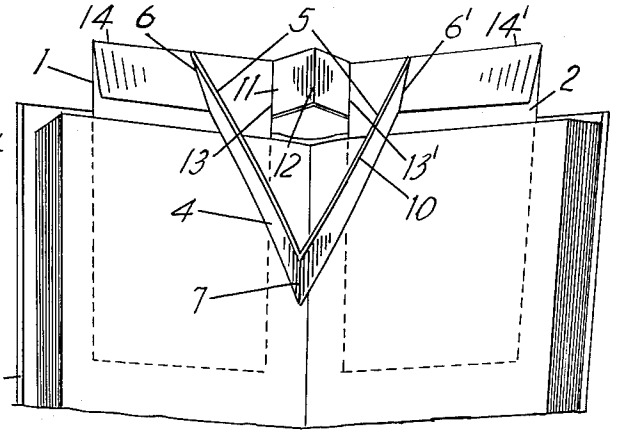


Fig. 2

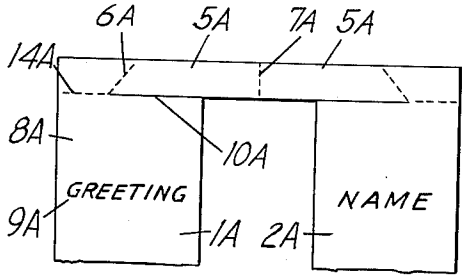


Fig. 5

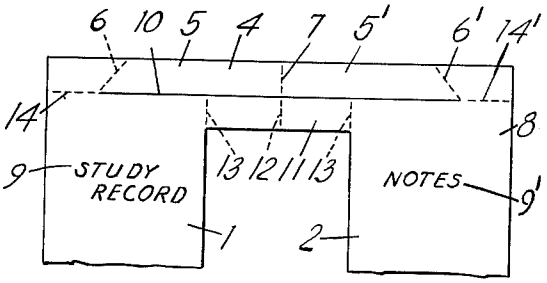


Fig. 3

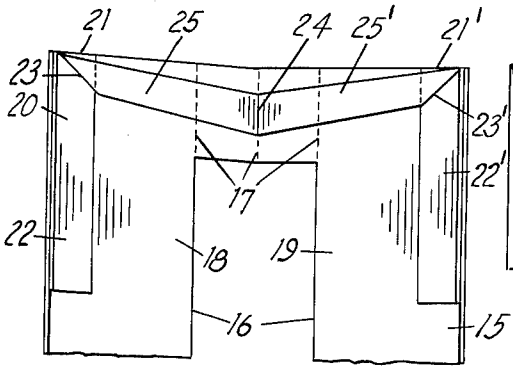


Fig. 6

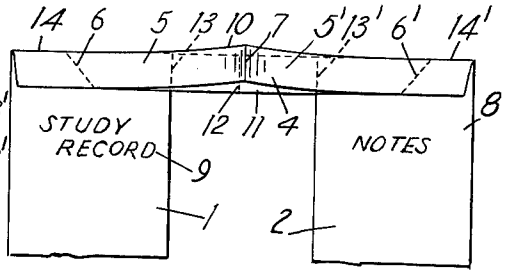


Fig. 4

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United States Patent Office

2,984,205

Patented May 16, 1961

2,984,205

AUTOMATIC BOOKMARK

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Filed May 28, 1959, Ser. No. 816,576

7 Claims. (Cl. 116—119)

This invention relates to an automatic bookmark. The principal objects of this invention are:

First, to provide a bookmark that may be placed in a book and retained therein by the pages of the book to swing downwardly into place or page marking position as the book is closed and swing upwardly out of the book to permit unobstructed reading and turning the pages of the book when the book is opened.

Second, to provide a bookmark that automatically inserts itself between the two pages of a book that are open as the book is closed.

Third, to provide a bookmark having the foregoing properties which can be inexpensively manufactured from a single sheet of paper or light cardboard.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from a consideration of the following description and claims. The drawings, of which there is one sheet, illustrate three forms of variations of the bookmark of the invention.

Fig. 1 is a front plan view of a closed book with the bookmark in page marking relation therein.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary front perspective view of the book in partially opened position and with the bookmark of the invention in the partially inserted position it automatically assumes upon positioning the book in this position.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view of a single unitary blank or sheet of paper or cardboard from which the bookmark in Figs. 1 and 2 is formed.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary plan view of the blank shown in Fig. 3 partially folded in erected position and ready to be mounted in a book.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary plan view of a first modified form of the bookmark also made up from a single sheet of material.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary plan view of a second modified form of the bookmark.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the bookmark of the invention consists of a front retaining sheet **1** and a back retaining sheet **2** that are inserted in the book **3** just inside the front and back covers thereof respectively and project upwardly beyond the upper edge of the book. A place marking finger **4** consisting of integral hingedly connected arms **5**—**5** connects the retaining sheets in spaced relation. In the erected operative position of the bookmark the arms **5, 5'** are connected to the retaining sheets **1** and **2** along inclined folds **6, 6'** that incline downwardly and rearwardly towards the adjacent inner or rear edges of the retaining sheets. The length of the arms **5, 5'** is such that the adjacent edges of the retaining sheets **1** and **2** are spaced from each other to clear the bound edges of the pages of the book.

When the book is closed as in Fig. 1, the place marking finger **4** folds down between the pages of the book that were open when the book was closed. In this position the arms **5, 5'** are folded into faced lapped relation and are closed on their connecting fold line **7**. As the book is opened, the upper ends of the arms **5, 5'** are separated and the inclined folds **6, 6'** raise the arms out from the between the pages of the book and swing them upwardly above the upper edges of the pages so that the pages may be read and turned in the usual manner. When the book is again closed the arms **5, 5'** and finger **4** descend and find position in the new place in the book. Note that the separating motion of the upper ends of the arms **5, 5'** automatically starts the separation of the pages of the book at the marked place in the book so that it is unnecessary for the reader to run his finger down the side of the place marking finger to open the book at the exact marked page.

The form of the bookmark shown in Figs. 1 to 4 is is made from a single sheet or blank **8** of paper or cardboard of suitable weight and stock. The stock should be stiff enough to provide substantial resiliency in the folds **6, 6'** and **7** and to give the arms **5, 5'** sufficient strength to support their own weight in swinging into and out of the book. The stock can be plain or decorative and may carry selected printed matter or advertising as indicated at **9, 9'**. The arms **5, 5'** extend across the top of the blank and are separated therefrom by a slit **10**. An auxiliary connecting strip **11** connects the retaining sheets **1** and **2** below the arms **5, 5'** and is folded in the center as at **12** and at its points of connection to the sheets as at **13—13**. The fold **12** is convex and the folds **13, 13'** are concave as viewed in Fig. 3.

The top portion of the sheet from which the arms **5, 5'** are formed is connected to the remainder of the sheet along concave fold lines **14, 14'** and is folded forwardly and downwardly over the upper ends of the sheets **1** and **2** and the auxiliary strip **11** prior to using the bookmark. For this reason the fold **7** is concave in Fig. 3 and the folds **6, 6'** are convex and inclined towards the fronts of the sheets **1** and **2** because they are reversed when folded down.

The modified form of the bookmark shown in Fig. 5 is the same as that in Figs. 1 to 4 except that the auxiliary connecting strip **11** is omitted. The remaining parts identified by numerals with the suffix (*a*) therefore perform the same functions as their counter-parts in Figs. 1 to 4.

The modified form of the bookmark shown in Fig. 6 is made in two parts and suggests the use of heavier stock. A main blank **15** is notched centrally from the bottom as at **16** and concavely creased or folded as at **17, 17'** to form the retaining sheets **18** and **19**. A single long strip of stock **20** has concave folds **21, 21'** formed near its ends to form attaching legs **22, 22'** that are adhesively secured along the outer edges of the sheets **18** and **19**. Convex angled folds **23, 23'** extend the center of the strip across the top of the main blank and a central convex fold **24** divides the center of the strip into two arms **25, 25'** of a marking finger. Desirably, the combined length of the arms **25, 25'** between inner ends of the folds **23, 23'** is somewhat longer than the distance across the blank **15** between the inner edges of the attaching legs **22, 22'** so that the arms **25, 25'** and the marking finger bow upwardly or forwardly from the front face of the blank **15** when the marker is in opened flat position.

What is claimed as new is:

1. A bookmark comprising a single integral blank of foldable paper stock having a central portion cut from its lower edge to form a notch extending to adjacent the top thereof to form front and back retaining sheets, a first connecting strip at the top of said notch connected to said sheets by vertical concave folded connections and having a vertical convex fold in its mid-section, and a second connecting strip connected at its ends to the tops of said sheets and separated by a slit from said first strip and the adjacent inner ends of the tops of said sheets, said second strip having a concave

fold in its mid-section forming the end of a page marking finger consisting of two arms, the ends of said arms having downwardly and outwardly convex folds therein extending to the ends of said slit, said second strip being connected to said sheets along concave fold lines to permit downward folding of the second strip over said first strip.

2. A bookmark comprising a single integral blank of foldable paper stock having a central portion cut from its lower edge to form a notch extending to adjacent the top thereof to form front and back retaining sheets, a first connecting strip at the top of said notch connected to said sheets by vertical concave folded connections and having a vertical convex fold in its mid-section, and a second connecting strip connected at its ends to the tops of said sheets and separated by a slit from said first strip, said second strip having a concave fold in its mid-section forming the end of a page marking finger consisting of two arms, the ends of said arms having downwardly and outwardly convex folds therein extending to said slit, said second strip being connected to said sheets along concave fold lines to permit downward folding of the second strip over said first strip.

3. A bookmark comprising a single integral blank of foldable paper stock having a central portion cut from its lower edge to form a notch extending to adjacent the top thereof to form front and back retaining sheets, and a connecting strip connected at its ends to the tops of said sheets and separated by a slit from the adjacent inner ends of the tops of said sheets, said strip having a concave fold in its mid-section forming the end of a page marking finger consisting of two arms, the outer ends of said arms having downwardly and outwardly convex folds, said strip being connected to said sheets along concave fold lines to permit downward folding of the strip over the upper edges of said sheets.

4. A bookmark comprising a single integral blank of foldable paper stock having a central portion cut from its lower edges to form a notch extending to adjacent the top thereof to form front and back retaining sheets, and a connecting strip connected at its ends to the tops of said sheets and separated by a slit from the adjacent inner ends of the tops of said sheets, said strip having a convex fold in its mid-section forming the end of a page marking finger consisting of two arms, the ends of said arms having downwardly and inwardly concave folds therein extending to the ends of said slit.

5. A bookmark comprising front and back retaining sheets, and a connecting strip connected at its ends to the tops of said sheets and separated by a slit from the adjacent inner ends of the tops of said sheets, said strip having a convex fold in its mid-section forming the end of a page marking finger consisting of two arms, the ends of said arms having downwardly and inwardly concave folds therein.

6. A bookmark comprising front and back retaining sheets connected at the top in spaced relation to be positioned inside the covers of a book and foldable therewith into closed position, and a page marking finger consisting of a separate strip of foldable material having a central convex fold defining two laterally extending arms connected at their outer ends to the upper portions of said sheets along downwardly and inwardly inclined fold lines, the ends of said strip beyond said inclined fold lines being secured adhesively along the outer edges of said sheets.

7. A bookmark comprising front and back retaining sheets adapted to be positioned inside the covers of a book and foldable therewith into closed position, and a page marking finger consisting of a strip of foldable material having a central convex fold defining two laterally extending arms connected at their outer ends to the upper portions of said sheets along downwardly and inwardly inclined fold lines.

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