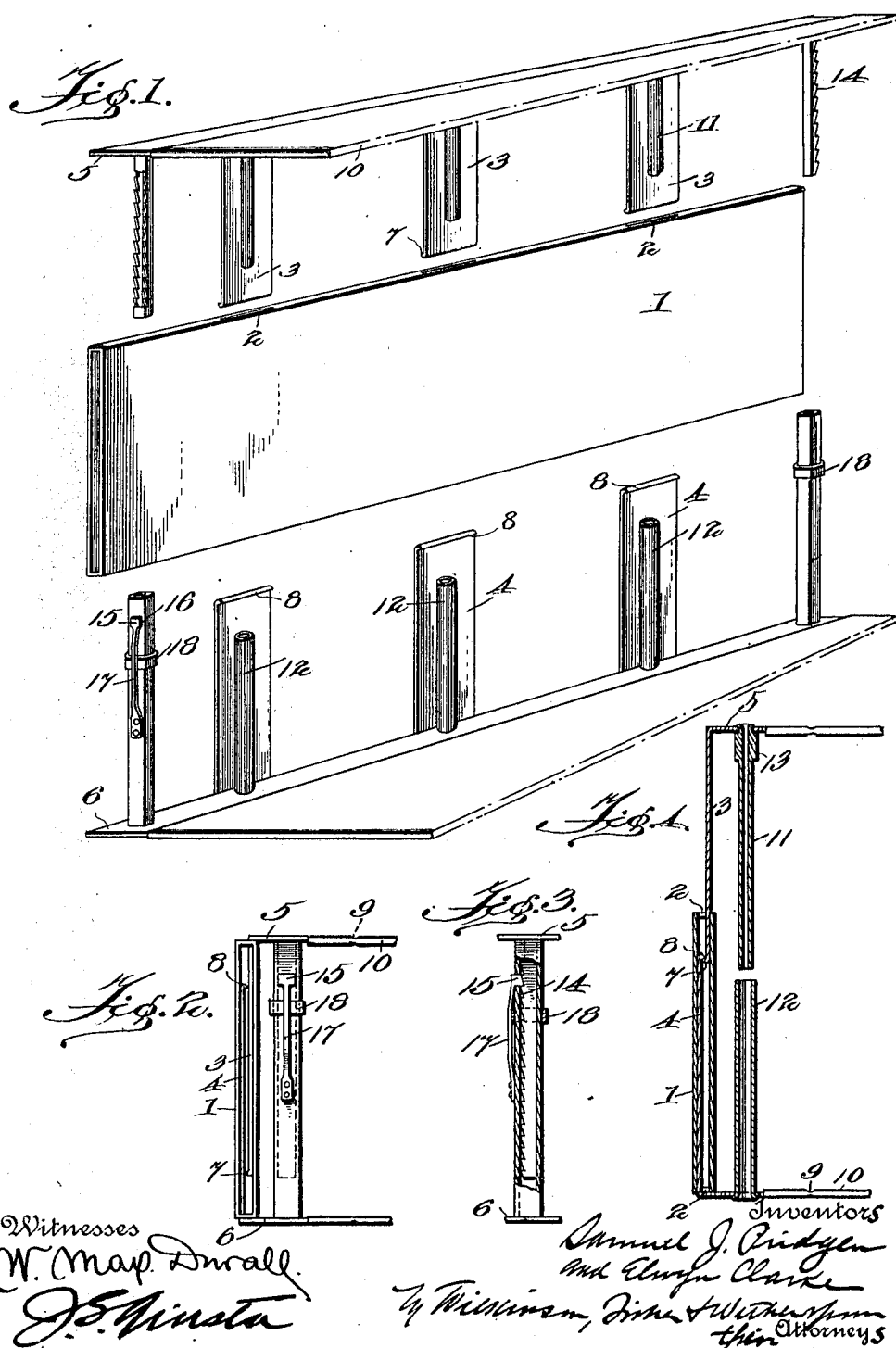


S. J. PRIDGEN & E. CLARKE.
 LOOSE LEAF BINDER.
 APPLICATION FILED AUG. 13, 1910.

992,057.

Patented May 9, 1911.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL J. PRIDGEN AND ELWYN CLARKE, OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

LOOSE-LEAF BINDER.

992,057.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 9, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, SAMUEL J. PRIDGEN and ELWYN CLARKE, citizens of the United States, residing at Atlanta, in the county of Fulton and State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Loose-Leaf Binders; and we do hereby 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.

This invention relates to improvements in binders generally known as loose leaf binders, in which prepared perforated leaves may be placed within or taken out of any portion of the bound book, without disturbing the other leaves therein.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a comparatively inexpensive article which is durable, neat in appearance and effective in not only binding the leaves together, but in binding them in such manner that the leaves will lie smoothly and evenly therein without the edges of one leaf projecting beyond the other, as is so frequently the case in binders of this type.

Other objects and advantages will appear from the following description and drawings and the particular features of novelty will be pointed out more succinctly in the claims.

It will be understood that the invention is not limited to the exact details shown and described, but for the purpose of disclosure reference is had to the accompanying drawings illustrating a practical and preferred embodiment of the invention, in which drawings like characters designate the same parts in the several views, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the several parts in their position to be assembled. Fig. 2 is an end view in elevation of the binder in its closed position. Fig. 3 is a view in elevation at right angles to Fig. 2 looking at the locking posts, a side wall of which is broken away to show the interior arrangement. Fig. 4 is a cross section of the binder in its distended position, the section being taken on a line through the guiding plates and binding posts.

The invention consists of a rigid back member associated with top and bottom members slidably connected with said back member, said top and bottom members being

provided with cooperating locking posts and binding posts.

In the drawings the back member is illustrated as comprising a rectangular hollow member having slots 2 in its upper and lower edges to receive the oppositely disposed guiding members or plates 3 and 4 mounted on the rigid strips 5 and 6, preferably of metal, said guiding members being provided with inturned and out-turned lips 7 and 8, adapted to engage each other and prevent the parts from becoming separated when operated, it being understood that plates 3 and 4 lie adjacent each other. The rigid strips 5 and 6 terminate at a position indicated at 9 (Fig. 2) and slipped over these edges are stiffened members 10 of leather or other suitable material flexing at the position 9, and these strips 10 may be extended or secured to a rigid top and bottom cover.

Carried by the strips 5 and 6, and preferably adjacent the guiding plates 7 and 8 are similarly disposed male and female binding posts 11 and 12, and the male posts 11 are preferably enlarged a short distance as at 13, so as to have an exterior diameter the same as the exterior diameter of the female posts, whereby when the binder is closed the aperture of all of the leaves will fit a support of the same diameter at the top as at the bottom, securing uniform adjustment.

Carried at the ends of the strips 5 and 6 are oppositely disposed locking posts and in the construction illustrated these consist of male and female posts, the male posts being provided with ratchet teeth 14 adapted to be engaged by a spring operated pawl 15 carried on the exterior of the female posts and projecting therein through an opening 16 in the wall thereof. The spring of this pawl as shown consists of a flat resilient member bowed outwardly as at 17 and cooperating with a slide 18 surrounding the female posts. While the various posts are preferably arranged as shown in the drawings, it is obvious that their position relatively to each other may be interchanged with some of the male posts on one member and some on the other, but this is obviously immaterial.

In operation, as more clearly shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 4, it would be observed that the plates 3 and 4 rigidly but slidably connect the top and bottom members with the back, and in their distended positions are

prevented from further displacement by in-
turned and out-turned lips. From Fig. 3 it
will also be observed that the top and bot-
tom members are held snugly against the
5 contained leaves by the action of the inter-
locking posts, and when it is desired to take
out or insert a leaf the sliding member 8 is
moved downwardly from the position shown
in Fig. 3, which will spring the pawl out-
10 wardly and allow the top and bottom mem-
bers to be distended.

Having described our invention, what we
claim is:—

1. In a loose leaf binder, the combination
15 of a rigid back, top and bottom members
provided with guiding plates slidably con-
nected to said back, interlocking posts car-
ried by said members and male and female
binding posts carried by said members, said
20 male posts being longer than said female
posts and having enlarged circumferential
heads of a diameter equal to the external
diameter of said female posts, substantially
as described.

2. In a loose leaf binder, the combination
25 of a rigid back, top and bottom members
provided with guiding plates slidably con-
nected to said back, binding posts carried
by said members, male and female interlock-
ing posts carried by said members, said male
30 posts being provided with ratchet teeth and
said female posts being provided with an
external spring pawl adapted to engage said

ratchet teeth and sliding means on said fe-
male posts operating between said posts and
said spring pawls, substantially as described. 35

3. In a loose leaf binder, the combination
of a rigid back comprising an elongated hol-
low member having slots in its top and bot-
tom edges, top and bottom members pro- 40
vided with guiding plates registering with
and operable through said slots, binding
posts carried by said top and bottom mem-
bers and interlocking posts carried by said
top and bottom members, substantially as de- 45
scribed.

4. In a loose leaf binder, the combination
of a rigid back comprising a hollow elon-
gated member having slots in its top and
bottom edges, top and bottom members pro- 50
vided with guiding plates having inturned
and out-turned lips at their free ends, said
plates registering with and operable through
said slots, and said inturned and out-turned
lips being oppositely disposed in the same 55
path, binding posts carried by said top and
bottom members and interlocking posts car-
ried by said top and bottom members, sub-
stantially as described.

In testimony whereof, we affix our signa- 60
tures, in presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL J. PRIDGEN.
ELWYN CLARKE.

Witnesses:

C. BLUM,
W. CARROLL LATIMER.