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2,184,569

SIGNAL OR CLIP

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Fig. 1

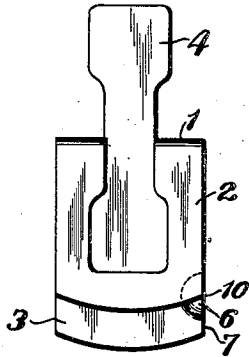


Fig. 2

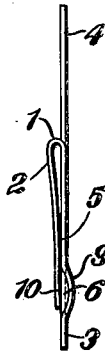


Fig. 3

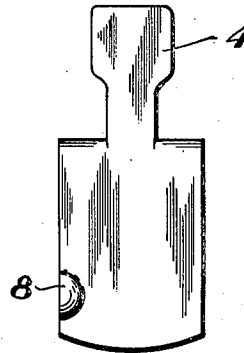


Fig. 4

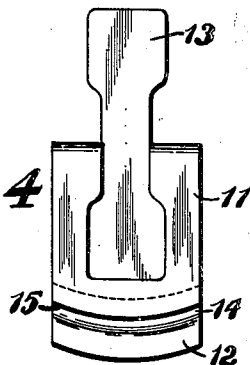


Fig. 5

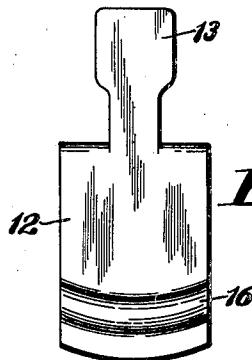


Fig. 6

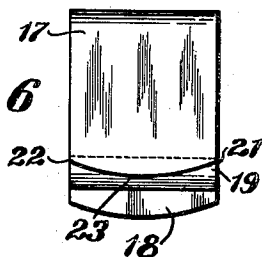
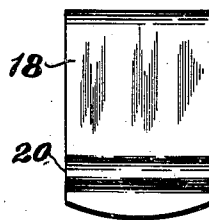


Fig. 7



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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SIGNAL OR CLIP

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3 Claims. (Cl. 24-259)

The present invention relates to clips for use as signals in card indexes and for other purposes and more particularly to such clips in which a pair of legs are resiliently pressed in contact with each other to form a vise by which the clip may be firmly attached to the edge of a card or the like.

Clips of this character are usually made of a strip of metal folded to form a pair of legs contacting toward the lower end of the clip. One of the legs may be slightly shorter than the other. In order to make the clip readily attachable, it has been the common practice to form the shorter leg with an outwardly turned lower end providing a space between said end and the other leg into which the edge of the card may be initially entered in position to separate the legs and pass inwardly between them under pressure applied to the upper end of the clip. Such clips have the desirable feature of ready attachability but have proved troublesome in use in that when a card having such clip secured thereto is inserted in a file, the outwardly turned end of the clip leg is liable to catch on the edge of an adjacent card, resulting in undesirable displacement of the clip, or clipping of two cards together, and in general interfering with and slowing the filing of cards bearing such clips.

It is the particular object of the present invention to provide an improved clip of the character referred to, so constructed that it may be readily pressed into engagement with a card edge but having no turned out ends or other projections which will catch on adjacent cards when the card is manipulated in a file. Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following more particular description, and the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view on an enlarged scale of a clip having a vise portion constructed according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a side view and Fig. 3 a rear elevational view of the clip shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a front elevational view of a modified form of clip embodying the invention;

Fig. 5 is a rear elevational view of the clip shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a front elevational view of another modified form of clip according to the invention;

Fig. 7 is a rear elevational view of the clip shown in Fig. 6.

My invention involves, in general, forming the longer leg of the clip with a depression or notch or recess in its inner surface, at least at one

edge of the leg, so positioned with respect to the shorter leg and of such size as to afford a passage for ready initial entry of a card edge between the legs and so shaped that the protuberance thereby formed on the outer surface of the longer leg will ride over the edge of an adjacent card without catching. The notch may take various forms, such as the dimple at one edge of the longer leg in the clip shown in Figs. 1 to 3 or the grooves extending from side to side of the leg in the clips illustrated in Figs. 4 to 7.

Referring now to the drawing, which illustrates preferred embodiments of the invention, and first to the embodiment shown in Figs. 1 to 3 thereof, the improved clip may be formed out of a flat strip of resilient metal bent intermediate its length as at 1 to form a pair of legs 2 and 3, of which leg 2, constituting the front leg in the drawing, is somewhat shorter than the leg 3. A tab 4 is struck out of the portion constituting the leg 2 to project upwardly at the bend 1 and may be colored or marked with indicia to provide a readily visible signal when the clip is attached to the upper edge of a card in a file. The free end edges of the two legs are preferably transversely curved downwardly as shown.

Legs 2 and 3 incline toward each other from the bend 1 and may come into contact at a point 5 adjacent the end of the leg 2. Leg 2 may be planar from the point of contact 5 to its lower end and leg 3 may also be planar throughout its length except for the notch or recess in the form of a dimple 6 at one edge 7 of the front face and a corresponding hump 8 on the rear face. The portion 9 of edge 7, within the dimple, is located intermediate the length of said edge, having its lower portion exposed beyond a lower corner 10 of the leg 2 and its upper portion behind the side of leg 2 terminating in said corner. Preferably the midpoint of the edge portion 9 is in approximate rearward alignment with the tip of corner 10 and is also the deepest part of the dimple 6. The surfaces of dimple 6 and hump 8 are curved longitudinally of leg 3 so that the edge of an adjacent card may ride freely thereover along said leg, and said dimple and hump may conveniently be made approximately quarter-spherical in shape, as shown. The depth of the dimple 6 and its length along the edge 7 are preferably sufficient so that the edge of a filing card or the like may be readily inserted into it under the corner 10 of leg 2.

The modified form of clip shown in Figs. 4 and 5 has a short leg 11 and a long leg 12, contacting near the lower end of the leg 11, and a

signal tab 13 struck out of one of the legs, and may be formed from a flat strip of metal in the same manner as the clip of Figs. 1 to 3. In this case the notch or recess is in the form of an arcuate groove 14 extending entirely across the inner face of the leg 12, the arc of said groove corresponding to that of the curved lower edge 15 of the leg 11. The groove, and corresponding bead 16 on the rear face of the leg 12, have their surfaces curved longitudinally of the leg 12, being shown as approximately semi-circular in cross section. The lower end of the leg 11 extends partially across the groove 14 preferably to approximately its center line. The groove has sufficient width and depth to permit ready insertion of a card edge into the groove under the lower edge 15 of the leg 11 at any point along said edge.

In Figs. 6 and 7 there is shown another modified form of clip according to the invention which has a short leg 17 and a long leg 18 contacting near the lower end of the leg 17 and may be formed by bending a flat strip of metal as explained with reference to the clip of Figs. 1 to 3. In this case the clip is shown without a signal tab and it is to be understood that the tab is not an essential feature of the invention. In the longer leg 18 there is formed a groove or recess 19 in the inner face and corresponding bead 20 on the outer face like the groove 14 and bead 16 of Figs. 4 and 5, except that, instead of being arcuate, they extend straight across the leg 18. The groove 19 is preferably so located that its center line or deepest point is approximately in alignment with the lowest part of the curved end edge 23 of the shorter leg 17. Or the groove may be so located that its center line is in approximate alignment with the lower corners 21 and 22 of the short leg 17.

In applying the clips of the invention, the edge of a card is inserted into a portion of the notch in the longer leg not covered by the shorter leg and thence upward in the notch under the overlying portion of the shorter leg, the clip being tilted forward and then rearward with respect to the card to assist in this operation. The card edge may then be forced upward out of the notch to separate and slide between the normally contacting portions of the two legs by downward pressure on the clip until the clip is fully seated on the card edge. The normally contacting portions of the two clip legs grip the card between them to hold the clip securely on the card, while the clip is free of projecting edges which will

catch on adjacent cards during filing, the protuberance on the outer face of the longer leg having a smooth surface which will ride freely over the edges of adjacent cards in the index.

While I have shown and described several preferred embodiments of the invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited thereto and that various changes may be made in the details thereof without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A signal or clip adapted to engage the edge of an index card or the like, comprising a pair of legs of unequal length connected together at one end and in juxtaposed position to receive and grip a card inserted therebetween from the opposite end, the longer leg having a recessed portion at one edge thereof opposite the end of the shorter leg, said recess providing a space between the longer leg and the end edge of the shorter leg to facilitate entry of a card edge under the portion of the free end of the shorter leg overlying said recess, said longer leg also presenting a substantially flat surface below said recessed portion.

2. A signal or clip adapted to engage the edge of an index card or the like, comprising a pair of legs of unequal length connected together at one end and in juxtaposed position to receive and grip a card inserted therebetween from the opposite end, the longer leg having a dimpled portion at one edge thereof opposite the end of the shorter leg, said dimple providing a space between the longer leg and the end edge of the shorter leg to facilitate entry of a card edge under the portion of the free end of the shorter leg overlying said dimpled portion, said longer leg also presenting a substantially flat surface below said dimple.

3. A signal or clip adapted to engage the edge of an index card or the like, comprising a pair of legs of unequal length connected together at one end and in juxtaposed position to receive and grip a card inserted therebetween from the opposite end, the longer leg having a recessed portion extending from edge to edge thereof opposite the end of the shorter leg, said recessed portion providing a space between the longer leg and the end edge of the shorter leg to facilitate entry of a card edge under the portion of the free end of the shorter leg overlying said recess, said longer leg also presenting a substantially flat surface below said recess.

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