Nov. 3, 1959 G. K. EPSTEIN ET AL 2,910,985

INDEX TAB

Filed March 12, 1957

Fig. 1.

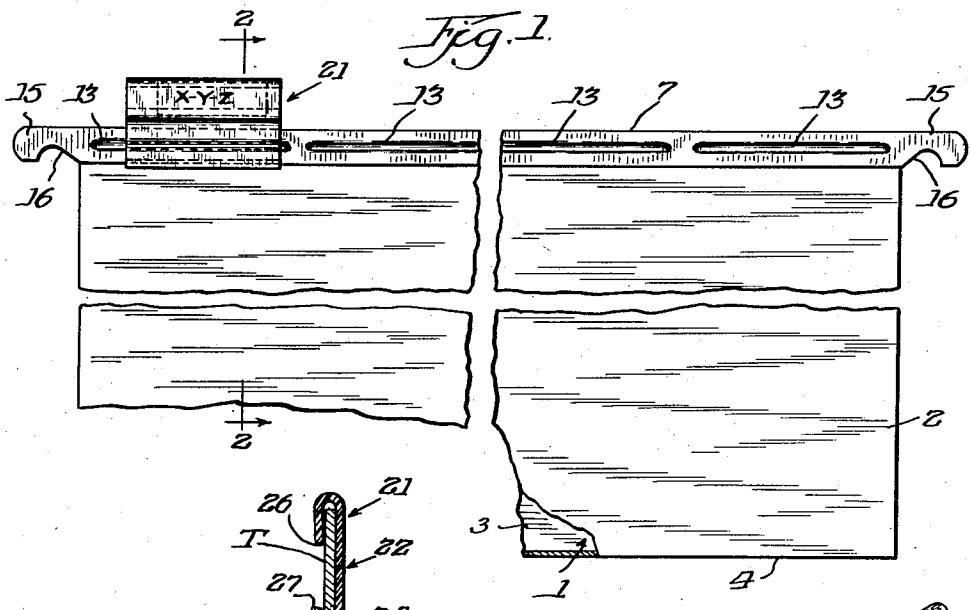


Fig. 2.

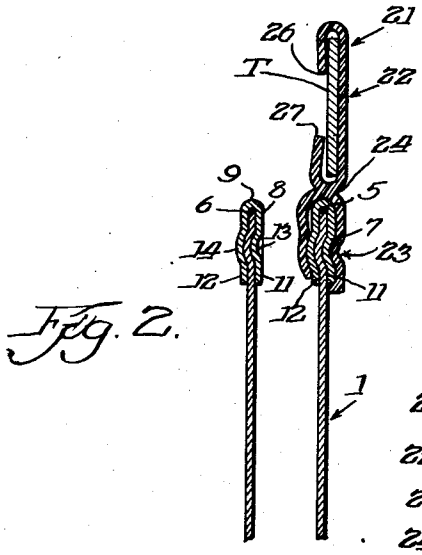


Fig. 3.

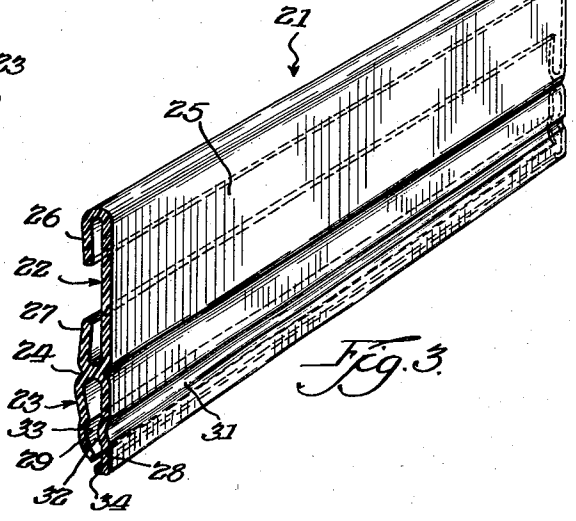
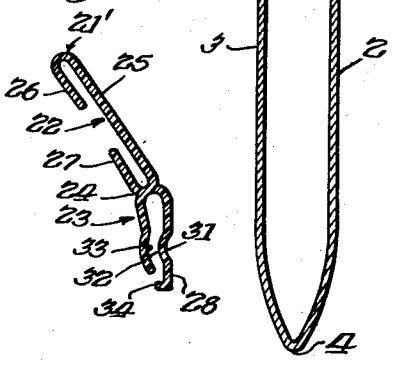


Fig. 4.



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INDEX TAB

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1 Claim. (Cl. 129—16.8)

The invention relates generally to index tabs and more particularly to index tabs especially adapted for use on hanging file folders and the like.

With increasing use of filing systems utilizing hanging type folders, there have been numerous types of index tabs constructed for use with such type of file folders. A typical example is that illustrated in U. S. Patent No. 2,289,577, issued on July 14, 1942, to Frank D. Jonas. This particular patent involves cutting the file folder for engagement with a cooperable tab holder.

The present has among its objects the production of a novel index tab structure and cooperable file folder reinforcement, which will provide a very efficient connection between the tab and folder structures, and which is exceedingly simple in construction, while enabling easy detachment from the folder when desired, and which may achieve also a lateral lock in action.

Another object of the invention is the production of such an index tab having the above advantages, which is so designed that it may be readily fabricated by simple extrusion processes and the tab stock subsequently cut to a desired length.

A further object of the invention is the production of such an index tab which does not require any punching or severing of the material forming the file folder, and which at the same time provides an extremely rigid structure.

A further object of the invention is the production of such an index tab which is so designed that maximum legibility of material supported by the tab is achieved.

Many other objects and advantages of the construction herein shown and described will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the disclosure herein given.

In the drawings, wherein like reference characters indicate like or corresponding parts:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a portion of an index folder illustrating an index tab, constructed in accordance with the present invention, mounted thereon;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken approximately on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a section of tab stock constructed in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 4 is a sectional view, similar to Fig. 2, of a tab holder having the tab receiving portion set at an angle.

The present invention is particularly adapted for use on file folders wherein the upper edge portions of each folder are reinforced by a metal strip or the like, folded into a U-shaped in cross section and crimped on the free edges of the folder. The tab may also be provided with portions which are engageable with cooperable portions on the reinforcing strip to normally restrain lateral movement of the tab relative to the folder and by means of which the tabs may be readily staggered on a series of folders.

Referring to the drawings, the reference numeral 1 indicates generally a file folder of the hanging type having a front half 2 and a rear half 3 joined at a fold

line 4 to provide a folder structure. Extending along each of the transverse edges 5 and 6 of the folder are reinforcing strips 7 and 8 respectively, which normally are similarly constructed, those in the present instance being formed from suitable metal stock folded along an intermediate line to form oppositely disposed substantially parallel side portions 11 and 12 which are formed to closely engage the edge portion of the folder. As clearly illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, the respective portions 11 and 12 may be provided with similarly arranged depressions to form a longitudinally extending depression 13 in the wall 11 and a similar depression in the wall 12 to form an external rib 14. It will be appreciated, from a reference to Fig. 2, that the recesses 13 and 14 cooperate to form offsets in the associated edge portion of the folder to provide a very effective interlock between strip 7 or 8 and the associated folder edge whereby the reinforcement will be effectively retained on the folder.

As illustrated in Fig. 1 the strips 7 and 8 may be of a length greater than the corresponding dimension of the folder to provide outwardly extending portions 15, each of which is provided with a notch 16 in its lower edge for engagement with a longitudinally extending rod or similar portion of a filing drawer or other container for folders such as that illustrated, the notches 16 functioning to prevent undersized disengagement of the strips 7 and 8 from the longitudinal members of the filing cabinet.

As illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, the tab holder indicated generally by the numeral 21, in the embodiment of the invention illustrated, comprises a tab receiving portion, indicated generally by the numeral 22, and a mounting portion, indicated generally by the numeral 23, with the portions 22 and 23 being joined as an integral unit adjacent their lower and upper edges respectively, as indicated at 24 in Figs. 2 and 3. In the particular embodiment of the invention illustrated, the tab receiving portion 22, as viewed in Figs. 2 and 3, is generally of reversed C-shape in cross section having a transparent face portion 25 and longitudinally extending reversely directed portions 26 and 27 which are adapted to receive the edge portions of a tab T. As illustrated in Fig. 2, at least one of the portions 26 and 27 preferably is formed with its free edges closer to the inner surface of the portion 25 than their extreme edge portions adjacent their connection so that the portions must be sprung slightly during the insertion of the tab T to frictionally retain the tab therein.

The mounting portion 23 of the holder is generally of inverted U-shape in cross section, having depending portions 28 and 29, the leg 28 having a groove or recess 31 in the external face thereof, forming a bead 32 along the inner face of the leg 28, and in like manner the leg 29 may be provided with a recess 33 in the inner face thereof in opposed relation with respect to the bead or rib 32. The holder is adapted to be sprung on one of the reinforcing strips 7 or 8, the holder being illustrated in the drawings as mounted on the strip 7 and it will be noted that the mounting portion 23 is of a size to receive the strip between the depending legs 28 and 29. As will be apparent from a reference to Fig. 2, the rib or projection 32 on the leg 28 of the holder is so positioned with respect to the recess 13 in the portion 11 of the strip 7 that the projection 32 will snugly seat in the recess, the adjacent surfaces being substantially complemental to one another, and in like manner the groove or recess 33 in the leg 29 is so positioned and shaped that it will snugly receive the rib or projection 14 on the portion 12 of the strip 7, with the inner face of the recess 33 and outer surface of the rib 14 being substantially complemental. The inner dimensions of the mounting portion 23 are such as to enable proper engage-

ment of the tab holder with the reinforcing strip under normal dimensional tolerances in the fabrication of the strip. Extending along the free longitudinal edges of at least one of the leg portions 28 or 29, 28 in the embodiment illustrated is a transversely or inwardly flange 34 which is approximately of a length equal to the thickness of the metal or material utilized in the reinforcing strip 7, with the location of the flange 34 being such that it will just engage the lower edge portion of the portion 11 of the strip 7, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

The mounting portion 23 is so constructed during manufacture that the leg portions 28 and 29 tend to converge slightly in their normal state as illustrated in Fig. 3, so that they must be sprung apart to permit engagement with the strip 7, and providing a resilient or spring action, will tend to frictionally maintain the holder on the strip. However, it will be appreciated that the engagement of the rib 32 with the recess 13, and the rib 14 with the recess 33, will tend to resist detaching movements between the holder and the strip. It will also be noted, referring to Fig. 1, that the recesses 13 and also the projections 14 on the strips 7 and 8 may be comparatively short in length, approximately equal to or slightly greater than the length of the holder 21, with a plurality of such recesses being arranged on the strip 7, four being illustrated in the drawing, so that the holder will normally tend to resist longitudinal movement along the strip 7, other than within the limits of each recess 13 and rib 14.

The flange 34 provides a very positive interlock between the strip 7 and the holder, such interlock being so effective that disengagement of the holder from the strip normally can be effected only by relative sliding movement between the holder and strip to withdraw the strip longitudinally from the mounting portion 23, the legs 28 and 29 being spread as the rib 32 passes beyond the limits of the recess 13 in which it is normally positioned.

The recesses 13 preferably may be so arranged along the strip 7 that each recess indicates the proper position for a tab holder when the latter are to be successively positioned in a staggered arrangement.

The construction illustrated in Fig. 4 is generally similar to that previously described, the holder 21' having corresponding tab receiving and mounting portions 22 and 23, which are illustrated as having leg portions and other elements similar to that described. However, in this construction, the tab receiving portion 22 is positioned at an angle to the mounting portion 23 so that the former is inclined when in use, the operation of the mounting portion and remainder of the structure otherwise being the same.

While we have illustrated the tab holding portion 22 as being generally C-shaped, obviously the present invention is not limited to the particular shape of the holder illustrated, but may be employed with other types, as for example, a completely tubular arrangement. Similarly, the very efficient locking action of the flanges 34 could be utilized without a lateral stop arrangement such as the rib 32 and the recesses 13.

It will be noted from the above description, that we have provided a very efficient tab holder for use on hanging file folders and the like, in which the holder may be readily mounted on the folder on any desired point along the folder edge, the holder being very rigidly mounted thereon so that it is detachable only under conditions which would not normally be encountered in use. It will also be noted that these results are achieved without cutting or punching the folder structure, thereby weakening it, as is done in other structures, but that the full strength of all the elements of the folder are retained. Likewise, the present invention provides a tab holder which may be readily and inexpensively manufactured as a plastic extrusion or the like, and which may be subsequently cut into any desired lengths.

Having thus described my invention, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the disclosure herein given, that various immaterial modifications may be made in the same without departing from the spirit of our invention, hence we do not wish to be understood as limiting ourselves to the exact form, construction, or arrangement of parts herein shown or described, or uses mentioned.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

An index strip holder for attaching to and detaching from a hanging file holder including a reinforced edge to which the index strip holder is adapted to be applied, said reinforced edge including an elongated inverted U-shaped reinforcing strip providing depending legs, at least one depending leg of which is formed of a single thickness of material closely overlying and conforming to the adjacent folder face, said depending legs of the elongated reinforcing strip similarly formed with longitudinally extending depressions providing a longitudinally extending rib and recess along the folder edge, said index strip holder comprising integrally connected mounting and strip supporting portions, said strip supporting portion comprising an inverted C-shaped means for operatively retaining an index strip thereon, said mounting portion having a pair of spaced depending legs, formed to provide complemental and longitudinal extending rib and recess along the holder and adapted to be sprung over and firmly engage the outer surfaces and longitudinally extending rib and recess of a reinforcing strip, the lower edge of one of said depending legs of said mounting portion including an integrally connected flange thereon extending inwardly at substantially right angles thereto, said flange adapted to underlie and firmly engage the adjacent edge of a reinforcing strip to interlock the index strip holder thereto.

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