

No. 854,873.

PATENTED MAY 28, 1907.

M. J. CONTER.
AUTOMATIC BOOK MARK.
APPLICATION FILED JAN. 30, 1907.

Fig. 1.

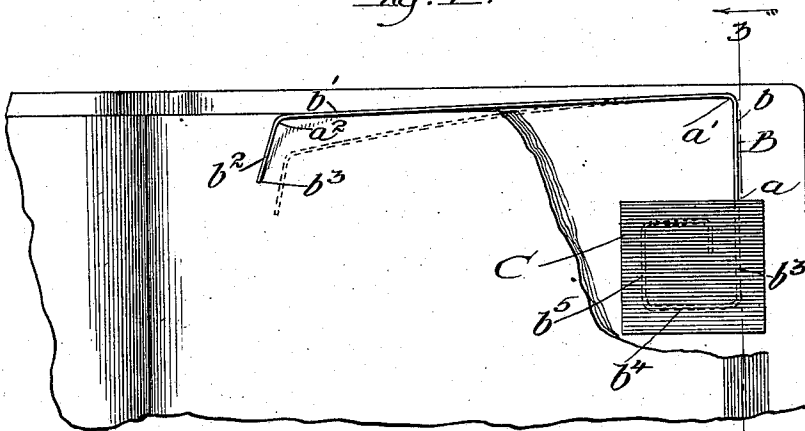


Fig. 3.

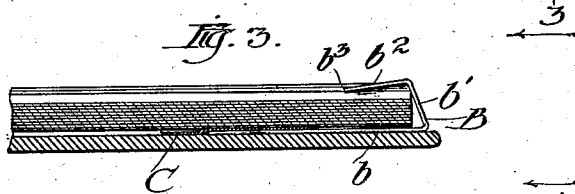


Fig. 2.

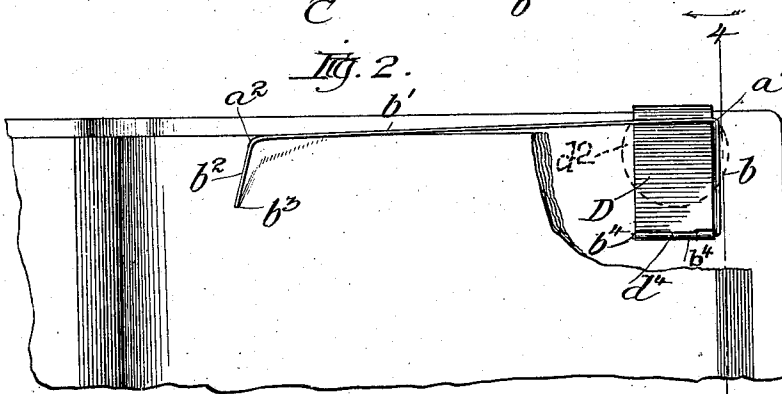
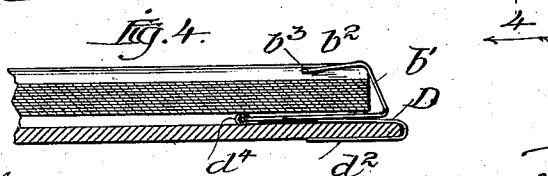


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AUTOMATIC BOOK-MARK.

No. 854,873.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed January 30, 1907. Serial No. 354,821.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MICHAEL J. CONTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Automatic Book-Marks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the drawings forming a part thereof.

The purpose of this invention is to provide an improved device attached to a book cover for automatically keeping the place of the reader as the leaves are turned. It consists of the features of construction shown and described and indicated in the claims.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a plan of a portion of an open book provided with the device in question, the same being shown in operative position holding a leaf of the book, the leaves in bulk beyond the point of holding being broken away to show the fastening of the device to the rear cover of the book. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a modified form. Fig. 3 is a section at the line 3—3 on Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a detail section at the line 4—4 on Fig. 2.

The device shown in Fig. 1 is made of a single piece of wire, and in both the forms shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the device proper is so made, the difference between the two devices being merely the means of securing it to the rear cover of the book. The leaf-holding element in both forms consists of a single piece of wire, B, which at one end is secured to the inner face of the rear cover of the book and extends from the last point of securement, a , upward or toward the head of the book a distance, b , sufficient to pass outside the body of the leaves, and is then bent at a^1 so as to extend toward the back of the book with a trend inward or toward the foot. It extends thus a distance, b^1 , which will vary according to the width of the book to within a short distance of the back of the book or bound edge of the leaves, and is then bent at a^2 at a considerably oblique angle to the portion, b^1 , forming a finger, b^2 , which extends toward the foot of the book with a trend inward or toward the back or bound edge of the leaves and also obliquely to the plane of the rear cover, so that it will bear at the terminal point, a^3 , upon the leaf to be held. The operation of the device in this form is that when the leaf is lifted the upper edge of the leaf operating along the portion, b^1 , of the device tends first to crowd it upward or toward the head of the back, and upon encounter with

the oblique finger, b^2 , to crowd the device entirely back off the leaf as the latter is turned, whereupon the device immediately springs back into position on the next leaf.

In the form shown in Fig. 1, the wire, B, forming the spring finger is secured to the inner face of the rear cover of the book by having the end portion bent to form three sides of an open rectangle,—although the angular character of the bends is not essential,—and this portion comprising the three sides, b^3 , b^4 and b^5 , being laid flat on the inner face of the rear cover of the book is secured by a piece of fabric, C, which covers this portion up to the point, a , and is glued onto the inner face of the cover over the three sides, b^3 , b^4 and b^5 .

In the form shown in Fig. 2, a metal securing clip, D, is substituted for the fabric, C, the wire having a portion, b^4 , corresponding to the portion, b^4 , of the other construction, clenched in a fold of the metal forming the clip, and the metal forming said clip being folded at d^1 to embrace the upper edge of the rear cover of the book, the portion, d^2 , being exposed on the outer side of said rear cover.

It will be obvious that the device in question, in order to operate properly, must be mounted on a rigid book cover, since the resiliency of the wire from the point, b , through the various angles and its torsional elasticity to some extent from the point, a , to the point, a^1 , is brought into action against the stiffness of the book cover on which it is mounted.

I claim:—

In combination with a book having a rigid rear cover, an automatic book mark consisting of a single piece of wire secured at one end to the inner face of such rear cover and extending from its point of securement off past the head of the book, being thence bent toward the back with trend toward the foot of the book and near its end being bent at an oblique angle toward the foot trending inward toward the back in a plane trending obliquely toward said face of the book cover to which it is secured.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Chicago, Illinois, this 26th day of January, 1907.

MICHAEL J. CONTER.

In the presence of—

J. JOE BEHENSKY,
LOUIS SEDLACEK.