March 3, 1931. E. W. DAVIS 1,794,444

RECORD FILE APPLIANCE

Filed Dec. 8, 1928

Fig. 1.

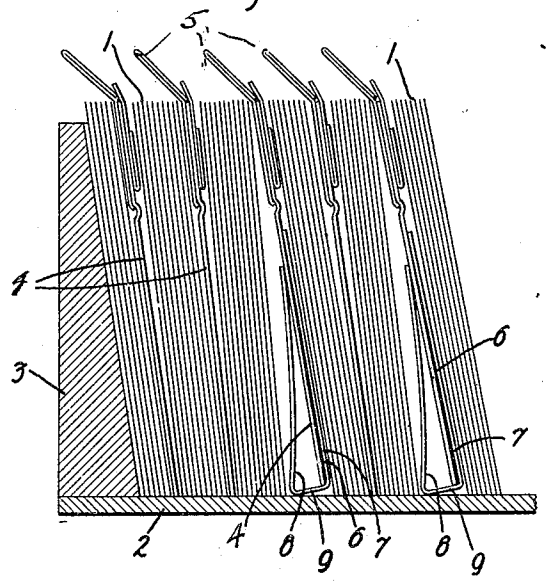


Fig. 2.

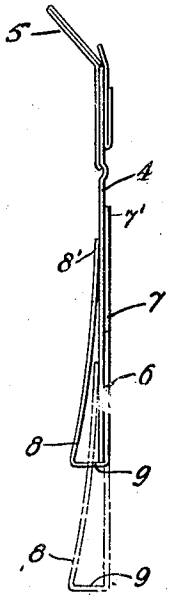


Fig. 5.

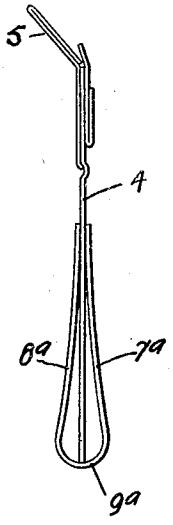


Fig. 3.

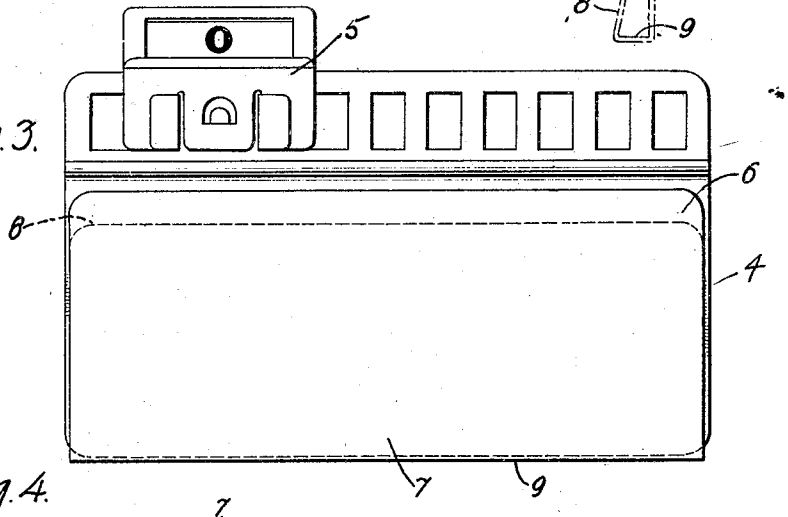
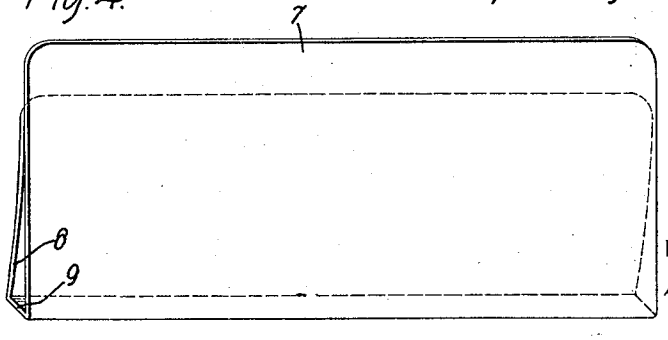


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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RECORD-FILE APPLIANCE

Application filed December 8, 1928. Serial No. 324,744.

This invention relates to filing records and more particularly to an appliance for spacing and holding individual record members, such as guides, which are customarily interpolated throughout a mass of record-bearing members.

The invention is of particular utility when embodied in record files with guides having guide tabs upon their upper margins, or with similar records in which guide tabs are used having a thickness greater than that of the bodies of the individual guides or record members. In a large mass of record members and guides having such thickened upper portions, there is a tendency at times on the part of the record members and guides to fall forward or slump in the part of the mass toward the front thereof, which renders their manipulation and consultation difficult. This forward falling or slumping is not overcome satisfactorily by the customary expedient of providing at the rear of the mass a follow-block having an inclined face, inasmuch as it is not practicable to incline this face to an extent which will compensate for the inclination due to thickened upper margins in addition to the usual inclination requisite to give the record members an inclination suitable for exposing their faces at the proper angle for consultation.

Various other expedients have been adopted to provide for the desirable spacing apart of the members at their lower margins and, while these have been of more or less utility in accomplishing the purpose, it is the general object of the present invention to provide an improved appliance which has certain advantages of construction and flexibility in use that will appear clearly hereinafter.

Another object of the invention is to provide an appliance which may be readily attached to an individual guide or other record member or otherwise inserted in the mass of members and capable of ready removal therefrom, the appliances serving when in place to maintain a predetermined spaced relation between the record members in their aggregate mass.

Another object of the invention is to provide an appliance which is of a universal character, so that any required number of the appliances may be applied interchangeably to the selected record members without need for special construction of the latter and which will be self-retaining when so applied.

Among other objects is the provision of an appliance which is so formed as to tend to impart automatically a rearward tilt to the guide to which it is attached and hold it firmly. Also, to accomplish this holding the appliance may be formed of resilient metal so that the gripping action is of a yielding character.

Additional objects will appear from the following description, appended claims and the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification and in which:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation partly in section of part of a record filing case with a mass of record members and guides, certain of which have been provided with appliances suitable for carrying the invention into effect.

Figure 2 is a side view of one of the guides, isolated, and with one of the appliances shown in course of application.

Figure 3 shows a guide and appliance in front elevation.

Figure 4 shows one of the appliances, isolated, in perspective.

Figure 5 shows an appliance of modified form.

Referring to the drawings in which like reference characters designate like parts, the reference character 1 designates record-bearing members of a record file and may be considered to represent the well-known cards forming a vertically disposed mass resting on their lower edges upon the base 2 of a suitable drawer or other receptacle, in which is shown also a follow-block 3, these parts being indicated in a fragmentary manner as they do not constitute a part of the invention.

The members 4 shown in the drawings are guides interpolated as required in the mass of record-bearing members and may be of any well-known material and structure. In the instance illustrated they are formed with bodies of sheet-metal and are provided at

their upper margins with adjustable tabs 5, the thickness of the guide at the region of the upper margin being somewhat greater than at their lower margins. These guides have been illustrated simply by way of example, as many other forms of guides in use for the same or similar purpose and having similarly thickened upper portions may be used with my invention.

In pursuance of the general object of the invention, which is to provide an appliance adapted to space apart the bottom portion of the guides and record members at desirable intervals, and in order to compensate for the upper thickened portions, the drawings show a plurality of members 6 which may be of any suitable material and structure and which in the instance selected for illustration are constituted by clips formed of suitable resilient material, such as sheet-aluminum, bent to form a face portion 7 and a back portion 8 connected by a base 9 at the bottom which is adapted to rest upon the base 2 of the receptacle. As shown, the face portion 7 and the back portion 8 extend from the base 9 in a converging relation, whereby the extremities 7′ and 8′ disposed in close proximity to each other form means to grip the guides.

This base may be of any desired proportions suitable to space the record members apart at their bottom margins. In Figures 1 and 2 the base 9 is illustrated as extending in a horizontal direction, while in Figure 5 the base 9*a* has a circular contour. The lateral extent of the clips may be varied to meet the requirements of any given size of guide or record member. It is not essential for the clips to be of the same width as the record members and may be made narrower than said record members.

The height of the appliances may also be varied and the relative height of the face portion and back portion may be changed as found desirable. It has been found useful in practice to form the face portion 7 somewhat higher than the back portion 8 in some installations for the purpose of causing the upper margin of the face portion to press against the guide or other record member with the result that the record member has a tendency to tilt backward in the clip, when the latter has a somewhat flattened base 9, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, the resiliency of the clip furthering this effect.

In use, the clips may be easily applied to the selected guides or other record members by sliding them into position as indicated in Figure 2 and, when the clip is made of resilient material such as resilient metal, it is possible to use the same as a means to hold any selected member at different heights as will be readily understood from Figure 2, so that the member thus supported will occupy any desired height relatively to the mass of guides and other record members, this being a useful capability of the improved appliances.

The appliances thus constituted are universal in character, inexpensive and interchangeable, being easy to apply and to remove, and, when in place in sufficient numbers, the mass of record members is free from any tendency to tilt forward or slump and are supported at the most convenient inclination for consultation and manipulation.

I claim:

1. An appliance of the character described comprising a clip of sheet material having front and rear portions extended in proximity to each other and adapted to embrace the lower portion of a filing record member or guide, said appliance having a thickened base.

2. An appliance of the character described comprising a clip of sheet material having front and rear portions extended in proximity to each other and adapted to embrace the lower portion of a filing record member or guide, said appliance having a thickened base formed by a bend in said sheet material.

3. An appliance of the character described comprising a clip of sheet material having front and rear portions extended in proximity to each other and adapted to embrace the lower portion of a filing record member or guide, said appliance having a thickened base formed by a substantially horizontally extending portion.

4. An appliance of the character described comprising a clip of sheet material having front and rear portions extended in proximity to each other and adapted to embrace the lower portion of a filing record member or guide, said appliance having a thickened base formed by a substantially horizontally extending portion from which said front and rear portions extend upwardly in converging relation.

5. An appliance of the character described comprising a clip of sheet material having front and rear portions extended in proximity to each other and adapted to embrace the lower portion of a filing record member or guide, said appliance having a thickened base formed by a substantially horizontally extending portion from which said front and rear portions extend upwardly in converging relation, one of said upward extensions being longer than the other and tending to tilt said record member when in place therein.

6. An appliance of the character described comprising a clip of sheet material having front and rear portions extended in proximity to each other and adapted to embrace the lower portion of a filing record member or guide, said appliance having a thickened base formed by a substantially horizontally extending portion from which said front and rear portions extend upwardly in converging

relation, the front upward extension being longer than the rear extension and tending to tilt said record member rearwardly when in place thereon.

In testimony whereof, I have affixed my signature to this specification.

ELMER W. DAVIS.