

1,037,476.

Patented Sept. 3, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

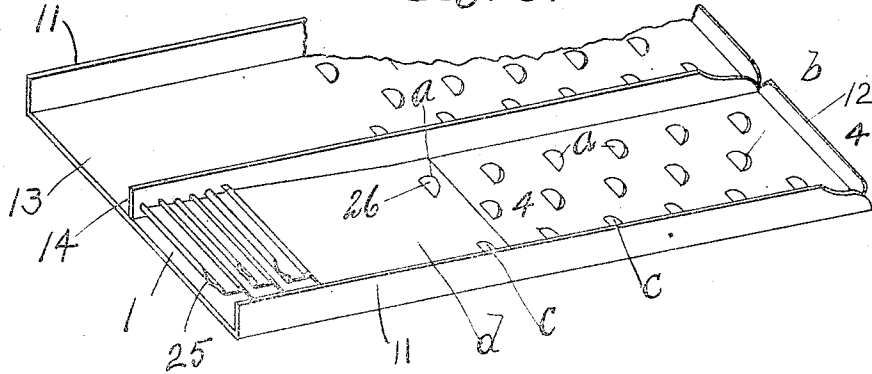


Fig. 4.

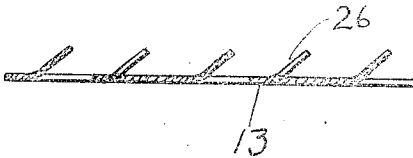


Fig. 5.

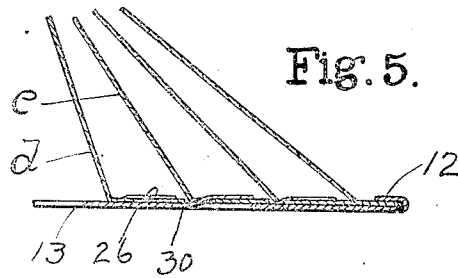


Fig. 6.

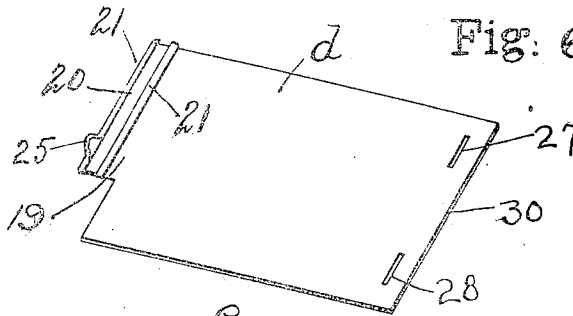
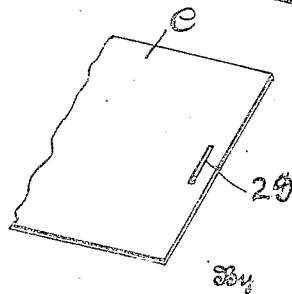


Fig. 7.



Witnesses

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ACCOUNT-FILE.

1,037,476.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 3, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WHITFIELD J. HAINER, a subject of the King of England, and resident of the city of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, United States of America, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Account-Files, of which the following is a specification.

10 This invention relates to account registers or files, and has for its object to provide a file of this character having a series of overlapping horizontally disposed separators or partitions comprising flexible plates yieldably mounted in rows in a tray, the uncovered end portions of each partition carrying exposed the name of the customer which appears opposite the amount of his account on the slip beneath, said partition being alphabetized or otherwise marked and provided with a tab to facilitate manipulation in filing sales slips or other papers between them.

20 The invention further consists in the provision of a plurality of separate trays to contain a single series of separators and of means to hinge two or more of said trays together whereby the register may be folded into a compact form to facilitate transfer and storing.

30 The invention still further consists in providing the base plate of said trays with a plurality of integral retaining lips or fingers projecting inward therefrom and a series of partitions comprising thin flexible plates, each having one or more openings corresponding to said lips through which the latter project for binding and hinging the edges of said partition to said plate, the lips and partitions being so placed that the hinged edge of one serves to prevent the accidental withdrawal of the next adjacent partition.

40 With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

50 Of the accompanying drawings: Figure 1— is a plan view illustrating my improved account register composed of two trays hinged together. Fig. 2— illustrates the trays as folded upon each other to facilitate transferring and storing. Fig. 3— is a perspective view showing a portion of one

of the trays having two compartments in which the partitions are hinged, also showing the arrangement of the gripping lips in said tray. Fig. 4— is a sectional view on line 4—4 of Fig. 3, showing the gripping lips as punched inward from the stock forming the bottom or base of the tray. Fig. 5— illustrates the partitions as secured in their relative positions by means of said gripping lips. Fig. 6— is a view slightly in perspective showing one of said partitions having two slots for receiving its corresponding gripping lips. Fig. 7— is the end of another partition showing one slot for receiving its corresponding gripping and retaining lip.

Referring to the drawings, 10 designates a portable shallow tray which may be constructed of sheet metal, or other suitable material and is preferably rectangular in form having its side edges 11 turned upward from the bottom portion 12. A central partition 14 extends longitudinally through the tray dividing the same into two comparatively narrow compartments. In some cases it is found desirable to duplicate the first tray by a second similar tray 15 and to hinge the two together as at 16, whereby they may be folded one upon the other into a more compact form as illustrated in Fig. 2 for convenience in handling and storing.

In order to keep the account slips apart and have them alphabetically arranged I have provided a partition or separator 17 which may be made of any suitable material and in any suitable form, but which is preferably constructed of a tough paper or fiber whose length and width is substantially that of the account slips employed. One corner of this separator is cut out as at 18 leaving a space through which the amount of the customer's account may be observed on the slip below. The remaining or extending portion 19 forms a convenient place on which to carry the customer's name opposite the figures representing his account. The name may be either printed on this extending portion or attached in any other suitable way, but for convenience I have provided a metal trough like holder 20, having its side edges 21—21 turned upward and inward forming a convenient place for receiving and retaining a card containing the customer's name which card may be readily removed when the account is closed, and the

name changed. A strip of celluloid, glass, or other suitable transparent material may be slipped endwise into the holder over the card to prevent the same from becoming soiled. This holder may be attached to the partition by any suitable means. An upwardly turned tab portion 25 is formed on one end of the holder to be engaged by the thumb and finger of the operator for manipulating the separator.

Another feature of this construction is that a special indicating slip may be carried in the trough beneath the name plate, which slip is adapted to be withdrawn or extended into view to indicate or denote certain conditions of an individual account. This slip may have different colors on opposite sides so that the slip may be withdrawn and the reverse side brought into view which will then indicate another condition entirely distinct from the first and when not exposed at all a third condition may exist and thus be indicated.

The essential feature of my present invention is the particular means by which these partitions are hinged or retained in position in the trays, which is that of forming lips 26 from the metal of the base plate by cutting and bending small portions thereof inward from the plane of its inner surface. These lips are preferably arranged in staggered relation in the bottom of the tray so as not to weaken the stock thereof, whereby adjacent partition plates are secured by different sets of lips. In the present instance I have shown three longitudinal rows of lips, *a*, *b*, and *c*, the two outside rows *a* and *c* being also in alinement transversely with each other and are adapted to engage corresponding apertures 27 and 28 in one set of partitions, the next adjacent set of partitions having a single aperture 29 which is engaged by the lips *b*. In other words, one partition is engaged by two lips *a* and *c*, and the next partition is engaged by the single lip *b*, and so on alternately first two lips and then one are adapted to engage and hold the alternate partitions *d* and *e* in position. In attaching these partitions in the tray the lips 26 are passed up through the apertures in the partitions after which the lips are bent down into the position illustrated in Fig. 5 firmly binding and securing the inner edges of the partitions to the base plate 13. These lips are so located that the fixed edge 30 of one partition when secured in position abuts against the rear face of the next partition *e*, thereby effectually preventing the plates from working loose or being accidentally withdrawn even though the lips were not forced tightly down upon them to rigidly bind them in position. A flange 12 is formed on the end of the tray which is adapted to be bent over and back upon the edge of the

last partition to bind and hold the same in position.

I claim:

1. An account file comprising a base plate having gripping lips, and a series of partitions having corresponding apertures through which said lips pass for securing one edge of said partitions to said plates. 70

2. An account file comprising a base plate having integral gripping lips raised from its inner face, and a series of partitions having corresponding apertures through which said lips pass for securing one edge of said partitions to said plate. 75

3. An account file comprising a base plate having integral gripping lips, and a series of partitions having corresponding apertures through which said lips pass for fastening said partitions to said plates, the fixed edge of one partition abutting against the back of the next adjacent partition to prevent the accidental withdrawal of said first partition. 80 85

4. An account file comprising a base plate having a series of integral gripping lips punched inward from the face thereof, and a series of partitions comprising thin flexible plates having corresponding apertures adjacent one edge thereof through which aperture said lips pass for binding one edge of said partition to said plates. 90 95

5. An account file comprising a base plate having a series of integral gripping lips punched inward from the face thereof, and a series of partitions comprising thin flexible plates having corresponding apertures adjacent one edge thereof through which apertures said lips pass for fastening said partition to said plates, the fixed edge of one partition abutting against the back of the next adjacent partition to prevent the accidental withdrawal of said first partition. 100 105

6. An account file comprising a base plate having a series of integral gripping lips, a series of partitions comprising thin flexible plates having corresponding apertures through which said lips pass for binding the edges of the partitions to said plates, side walls at either edge of said partition for preventing lateral displacement of the slips deposited between said partition. 110 115

7. An account file comprising a base plate having a series of integral gripping lips raised inward from the inner face thereof and arranged in staggered relation transversely thereof, a series of overlapping partitions comprising thin flexible plates having corresponding apertures through which said lips pass for binding the edges of the partitions to said plate, and side walls at either edge of said partition for preventing lateral displacement of the slips deposited between said partition. 120 125

8. An account file comprising a base plate having a series of integral gripping lips 130

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one partition abutting against the back of
the next adjacent partition to prevent the
accidental withdrawal of said first parti-
tion.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 15
in presence of two witnesses.

WHITFIELD J. HAINER.

Witnesses:

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