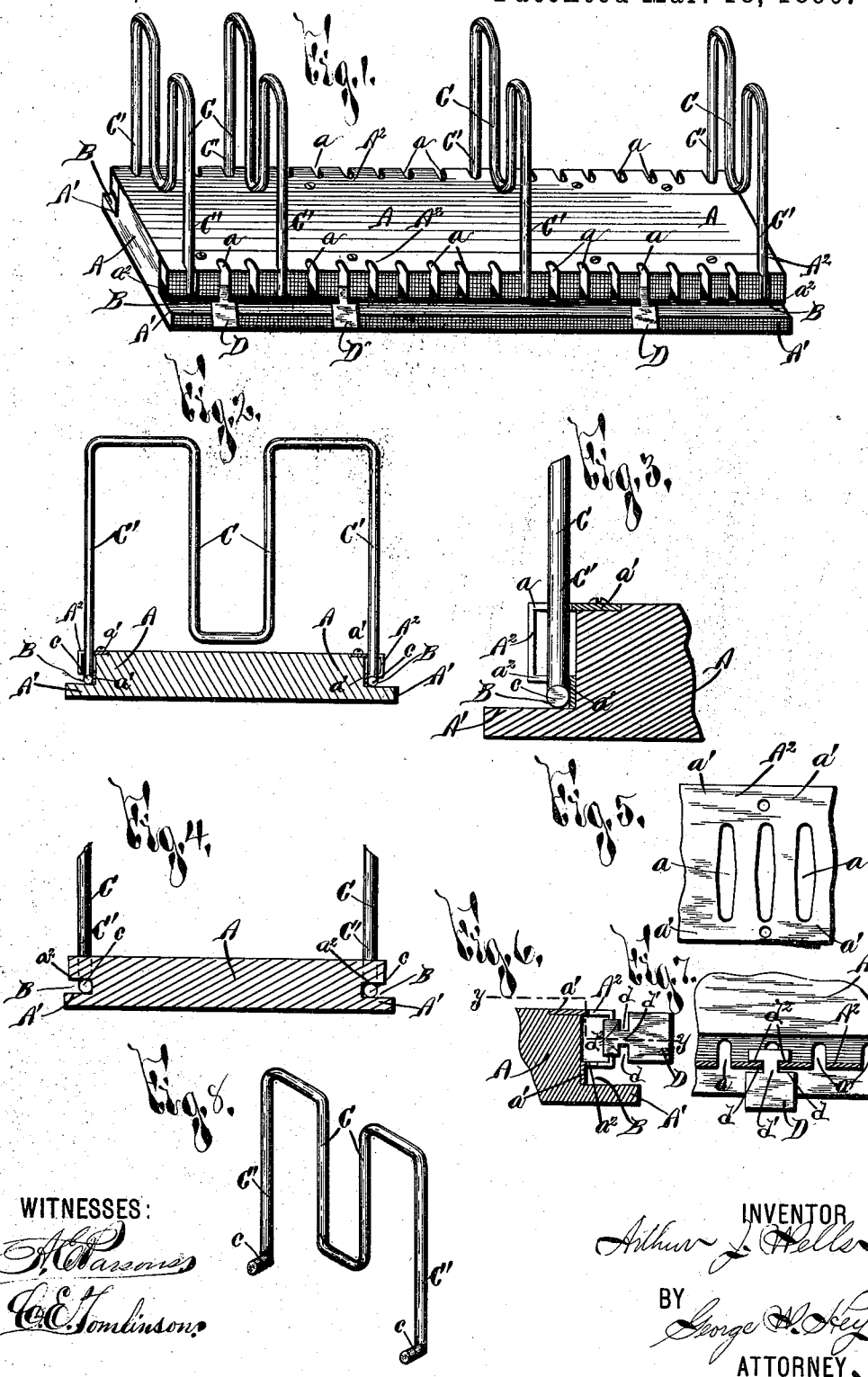


(No Model.)

A. J. WELLS.
BILL FILE.

No. 423,647.

Patented Mar. 18, 1890.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR J. WELLS, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

BILL-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 423,647, dated March 18, 1890.

Application filed June 10, 1889. Serial No. 313,664. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR J. WELLS, of Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Bill-Files, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improved file of the class previously patented to me July 24, 1888, numbered, respectively, 386,673, 386,674, and 386,675, and has for its object the production of a simple portable file-rack, which may be set upon a desk or in any other desired position; and to this end it consists, essentially, in a suitable base and adjustable partitions mounted in a novel manner thereupon.

It also consists in providing the adjustable partitions with detachable tags, upon which a letter or other symbol or sign of memoranda can be placed for the purpose of labeling articles filed in the adjustable partitions of the paper-file.

It furthermore consists in the detail construction and arrangement of the parts, all as hereinafter more particularly described, and pointed out in the claims.

In describing my invention reference is had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification; in which like letters indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective of my improved paper or bill file in operative position. Fig. 2 is a transverse section taken on line $x x$, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view illustrating the connection of the adjustable partition to the supporting-base. Fig. 4 illustrates a modified form of the base. Fig. 5 illustrates a portion of the metallic edge secured at the edge of the base in the preferable construction of my invention. Fig. 6 is a horizontal section through the detached edge of the supporting-base, illustrating the detachable tag as on the point of being secured thereto. Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken on line $y y$, Fig. 6; and Fig. 8 is a perspective of a detached partition.

The base A of my improved file is of any desirable form or construction to attain the desired result, and is supported in any required position. As preferably constructed,

the upper part of the base is of less width than the lower part, forming the projecting rib A'. The upper part of the base, on the longitudinal edges thereof, is provided with open slots $a a$. These slots $a a$ are preferably formed in a plate A², which plate is bent so that a portion thereof projects outwardly from the parts a' , secured to the base. It will thus be seen that a groove B is formed between the lower edge a^2 of the plate A² and the rib A' of the base A.

The partitions may be of any desirable form and construction, but are here shown as a piece of wire C, formed in a triple-U shape, and having its side legs C' provided with the lateral projections or feet c .

The legs C' of the adjustable partitions are engaged with the slots a of the base A, and their projections or feet c' lie in the groove B, and by bearing against the face a^2 of the plate A² prevent said legs from disengagement. The central portion of the adjustable partitions may be of any suitable form to give the desired rigidity to the partition.

By reference to Fig. 5 it will be seen that the slots a in the plate A² are preferably tapering from their central portion to the extremities thereof. The spring of the legs C' will thus force the same into the contracted portion of the slot and secure the leg more firmly therein. However, it will be readily understood that the plate A² might be readily formed with straight slots instead of the form described.

At Fig. 4 I have shown a modified construction in which the base A has no metallic edge A² secured thereto. In this construction the slots a and the groove B are formed directly in the base A. This construction, however, is not as desirable as that illustrated in Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

In order to render the bill-file very effective for use and that articles may be arranged therein alphabetically or according to rule, I provide the tags D, which are detachably secured between the separate partitions, and upon which may be marked any desired letter, symbol, or sign. These detachable tags are preferably provided with the cut-outs d , extending inwardly from the edges of the forward inner part thereof and forming the central portion d' and the shoulders d^2 .

By reference to the drawings it will be seen that this central portion is of equal or less width to that of the slots *a*. The forward inner part of the tag is of a width to be easily inserted lengthwise in the slots *a* until the contracted portion *d'*, is engaged with the said slot. The tag can then be partly revolved, and can be dropped into the position illustrated in Fig. 1. It will thus be seen that the shoulders *d'* abut against the inner surface of the adjacent part of the plate *A*², and the tag is securely retained in the desired position.

When desired to change the partitions, the tags can be readily detached without care, skill, or time.

The parts of my invention are very simple in construction, and it will be observed that the same can be readily and cheaply manufactured. The base *A* may be readily formed or stuck through a suitable grooving or planing machine, the plates *D* may be readily cut or stamped out of sheet-metal and bent into the desired form, and the partitions may be readily formed by a suitable bending machine.

When desired to ship my improved file, the partitions may be readily removed therefrom, causing the device to take up but little room.

It will be understood that considerable change may be made in the relative construction and arrangement of my invention without departing from the spirit thereof.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a supporting-base having a longitudinal groove and transverse slots leading thereinto, of adjustable partitions provided with their lower extremities registering with the transverse slots and formed with feet registering with the longitudinal slot of the base, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. The combination of a supporting-base, a longitudinal shoulder provided on the said base, transverse shoulders arranged at an angle with the longitudinal shoulder, adjustable partitions having projections for engaging with the transverse shoulders of the base, and lateral projections or feet formed upon said partitions for engaging the longitudinal shoulder, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the base *A*, having the wearing edge or plate *A*² projecting therefrom, slots provided in the wearing edge or plate, adjustable partitions engaged with the slots, and feet or projections provided upon

the adjustable partitions, said feet engaging a shoulder formed upon the said wearing edge or plate, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. The combination, with the base *A*, plates *A*², slots provided in said plates, and a slot *B*, provided in the base, of the adjustable partitions engaged with the slots *a*, and projections or feet *c*, mounted in the slots *B*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

5. The combination, with a base, of adjustable partitions mounted upon said base, and a tag detachably secured to said base, substantially as specified.

6. In a file, the combination of a supporting-base, a series of partitions adjustable toward and away from each other for varying the file-spaces, and tags adjustably mounted upon said partitions for the adjustment of the partitions, substantially as specified.

7. In a file, the combination of the supporting-base, a series of partitions adjustable toward and away from each other, projections upon said partitions for detachably engaging the cut-outs in the supporting-base, and a tag also having a projection for detachably engaging said cut-outs, substantially as described.

8. The combination of a supporting-base, a longitudinal shoulder provided on said base, transverse shoulders arranged at an angle with the longitudinal shoulder, adjustable partitions having projections for engaging with the transverse shoulders of the base, lateral projections or feet formed upon said partitions for engaging the longitudinal shoulder, and a tag having projections formed thereon for engaging the shoulders of the supporting-base, substantially as described.

9. The combination, with a base, metallic edges provided upon said base projecting therefrom and having their extremities secured thereto, and slots provided in the projecting portion of the plates or edges *A*², of the tag *D*, having the shoulders *d'* and the contracted portion *d'*, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name, in the presence of two attesting witnesses, at Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, this 23d day of May, 1889.

ARTHUR J. WELLS.

Witnesses:

CLARK H. NORTON,
ARTHUR E. PARSONS.