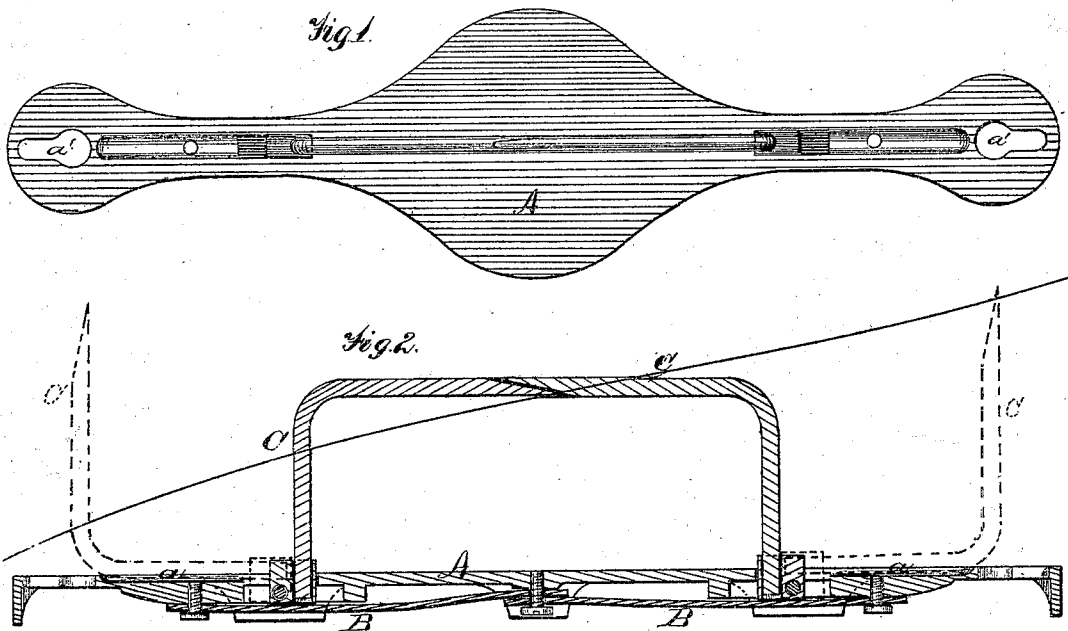


G. W. BILLOW.

Paper-Files.

No. 134,724.

Patented Jan. 14, 1873.



Witnesses
O. Bradford.
N. H. Thompson.

Inventor
George W. Billow
Edson Bros.
attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE W. BILLOW, OF SHELBY, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN PAPER-FILES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 134,724, dated January 14, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. BILLOW, residing in Shelby, in the county of Richland and State of Ohio, have invented an Improved Combined Paper-File, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to an instrument combining in a compact form a paper-file, wall-hook, desk-stand, and clasp; and the nature thereof consists of a plate or support, with a spring affixed to its rear side, and hooks supplied to its opposite one in such a manner as to be acted upon by the said spring either when at rest or while being brought together and thrown apart, substantially as hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the annexed drawing, Figure 1 illustrates a plan view, and Fig. 2 a longitudinal vertical section, of my instrument.

Corresponding parts in both of the figures are illustrated by similar letters.

A refers to a plate or support, of any desired contour and configuration to suit the taste and give beauty of appearance to it. To the rear or back side of this support, and fastened by any known means at the ends and center, or thereabout, are arranged springs B, made preferably flat. In lieu of the springs may be substituted a single one. C C refer to two hooks or brackets the free ends of which are beveled and flattened so as to overlap each other, enabling them to occupy a space no greater than that filled by any one of the said hooks in a cross-section. The opposite ends of the said hooks are set into or formed with angular shoulders or shanks. To receive the said ends slots are cut in the plate A, one at each end, the axles or pivots of the former entering the walls of the said slots. The angular shoulders or shanks of the hook C, which protrude through the plate A by reason of its slots, rest against the spring B, so as that the latter may act to hold them rigidly in place when brought together or thrown apart. Each of these hooks or brackets consists of a bar bent in such a manner as that one arm thereof shall be at a right angle with the other one, substantially as shown in the drawing.

Through this construction a two-fold use of the instrument is effected: That of a paper or letter file, as shown in Fig. 1, the free ends thereof—the hooks—being brought together; and that of a desk-stand, as shown in Fig. 2, the ends of the same being thrown apart or standing upright. When the free ends of the said hooks stand in the position just ascribed to them the arms of the opposite ends thereof, which occupy a horizontal position, enter and rest in concavities or grooves *a a* made in the plate A. Under the form of a paper-file it also acts as a clasp, which is too obvious for further elucidation. By this construction and arrangement a double paper or letter file is also obtained, by which certain letters, when desired, may be kept separate from others.

Great convenience is experienced, and the removal of any one or more of the letters from the file to find any certain one is avoided in the use of my device, as it will be observed that when any required letter or letters is to be removed, all above that letter, instead of being taken off the hook upon which they are strung, can be slid over upon the other hook, and the said letter be separately removed, the hook upon which it is filed being slightly separated from its fellow, leaving or creating a space for its disengagement from the file.

To use this device as a wall-hook, construct it with an opening or openings, *a' a'*, so as that it may be suspended from a nail or other projection in the wall and extend its upper hook, leaving the lower one ready to receive any article it may be desired to suspend therefrom.

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

The letter or paper file composed of the support A, hooks C, and springs B, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name this 1st day of November, A. D. 1872, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GEORGE W. BILLOW.

Witnesses:

G. P. REYNOLDS,
WM. SLAYBAUGH.